

Mugabe heads for reelection

HARARE (R) — President Robert Mugabe headed for a comfortable victory Saturday in Zimbabwe's presidential election, but a low turnout dashed his hopes of a massive popular mandate for turning the country into a one-party state. With votes counted from 22 of the 120 constituencies, Registrar-General Tobwen Masele said Mugabe had won 221,027, or 52 per cent, to 69,404 for his challenger Edgar Tsvire, leader of the Zimbabwe Unity Movement (ZUM). But the figures also indicated that only about half the registered voters went to the polls, denying Mugabe the massive mandate he sought for his dream of replacing Zimbabwe's multi-party system with a one-party state. In the parliamentary election, Mugabe's ZANU-PF party won the first 13 seats declared. In Mugabe's hometown, his sister Sabina won the Zimbabwe constituency with 8,088 votes to 525 for the ZUM candidate out of a total electorate of 42,711. The low turnout suggested public apathy towards Mugabe's campaign for a new mandate from the voters.

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U.N. chief ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar left Amman Saturday after a four-day private visit to Jordan during which he was received by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Perez de Cuellar was seen off by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Ousein and Jordan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Salah Khalaf.

Thatcher says 'no vacancy' for British leader

CHELSEHAM, England (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, her 15-year stewardship of the Conservative Party in question as never before, insisted Saturday there was "no vacancy" for Britain's leader. In a keenly-awaited speech to a meeting of top party officials in this western England spa, Thatcher ringingly declared: "I haven't come to Cheltenham to retire." Former Conservative Party Chairman Norman Tebbit sparked a heated debate over Thatcher's grip on power when he said this week he would be a candidate to succeed her if she stepped down before the next general election.

French Communist mayor sacked

PARIS (R) — A Communist mayor in the Paris suburbs was thrown out of office for alleged racist remarks Saturday as a national debate on immigration gained momentum. Andre Deschamps, for 30 years mayor of the northeastern suburb Chilly-Montmorency, lost his job to a rival Communist, after being quoted in the press last week as comparing Arabs and blacks to "a pack of hyenas." His political demise, accompanied by noisy street protests, took place as the conservative opposition opened a two-day convention on immigration before a major political gathering on Tuesday called to stamp out growing racism.

Rebels trying to infiltrate Manila

MANILA (AP) — Up to 1,000 Communist rebels have been sent to Manila from nearby provinces to step up assassinations and attacks in the capital, the state-run news agency reported Saturday. The Philippines News Agency, quoting unnamed intelligence sources, said rebel troops were moved into hideouts in northern and southern districts of the city over the past three weeks in preparation for a "summer offensive." At least nine people, including a lieutenant colonel, have been killed in the Manila area in the past 10 days in attacks blamed on the rebel New People's Army.

U.N. panel urges more food aid

ROME (AP) — More than 80 countries have appealed for increased food aid to Africa's poorest countries, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said Saturday. The agency's committee on world food security, which concluded a week-long meeting here Friday, said in its final report that greater pledges of aid were needed to meet the "substantial uncovered emergency relief needs of Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Sudan." The committee expressed satisfaction at an anticipated general increase in worldwide food aid from 9.8 to 11.6 million tonnes.

Israeli police seize 32 kg of drugs

HAIFA (AP) — In a major drug bust, police seized 32 kilos of heroin and other hard drugs aboard an Israeli vessel in the port of Haifa, police said Saturday. The drugs were hidden in a container marked "furniture" aboard a vessel run by the Israeli shipping company Zim, said Haifa police officer Tikvah Yosef. She said police seized 32 kilograms of cocaine and half a kilogram of opium.

Gorbachev issues tough warning to Lithuanians

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev warned the Lithuanian people Saturday that failure to heed Moscow's call to abandon their self-proclaimed independence could lead to "grave consequences for all of us."

"The situation in the republic and around it has taken on a dramatic character," he said in an appeal reported by the official TASS news agency. "If now the voice of reason is not heeded, events could have grave consequences for all of us. We must be united in striving to prevent this," Gorbachev said. He said Soviet people were demanding action to defend the country's constitution and protect its citizens from "the harm caused by the actions of the separatists."

In a separate appeal to the republic's parliament, Gorbachev described its March 11 declaration of independence and subsequent actions as "running counter to the constitution of the USSR and having an openly defiant and insulting character for the entire (Soviet) Union."

"I want to declare yet again that this path is ruinous and can only lead to a dead end," he added.

The twin appeals from Gorbachev, his most ominous warnings to date, heightened the tension between Moscow and the rebel republic.

The Kremlin has been applying increasing pressure on Lithuania, rounding up army deserters and sending troops to occupy public buildings despite appeals from U.S. President George Bush and other Western leaders not to use force.

Bush sent a message to Gorbachev Friday and told reporters he hoped to prevent any misunderstanding which could sour superpower relations.

Gorbachev's appeals were issued a day after the parliament of Estonia announced the start of a transitional period leading to full independence.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — all independent states between the two world wars — were annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940.

Prior to the president's latest action, thousands of demonstrators in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, defied an official ban to demonstrate in support of the Lithuanian declaration.

Ivan Drach, head of the Ukraine's Rukh movement, told Reuters by telephone from Kiev that some 20,000 people listened to speeches by parliamentarians and cultural figures.

Police initially warned the demonstrators their gathering was illegal, he said, but then stood aside and let the rally continue.

In Moscow, several hundred demonstrators met in Gorky Park to denounce the army's involvement in Lithuania and insist on the right of the 15 Soviet republics to secede.

An army major who stood up and tried to defend the armed forces was shouted down.

In Georgia, which also has a thriving separatist movement, demonstrators called for an end to the "occupation" of the three Baltic republics, according to Radio Moscow's Interfax news service.

Transcaucasian violence
Soviet troops dispatched to

separate warring Armenians and Azeris have failed to stamp out bloody clashes on the frontier between their two Soviet republics, journalists in the region said Saturday.

Detachments, rushed to the border area Friday from the Azerbaijan and Armenian capitals, succeeded in damping down the fighting, but not in stopping all the shooting and cross-border raids, they said.

The Armenpress and Azerpress news agencies, contacted by telephone, said a number of people had been killed in the past few days, but reliable figures were unavailable. At least 13 people were killed in the previous week.

Ethnic tension with Armenia dominated a plenary session of Azerbaijan's Communist party leadership Saturday, the Soviet news agency TASS said.

Fighting in the Nakhichevan enclave, sandwiched between Armenia and Turkey, and on other border points had worsened in the past few days with deaths and heavy economic damage, the meeting was told.

The fighting was especially intense between Noyembaryan district, in the far north of Armenia, and Kazakh across the border in Azerbaijan, it said.

Delegates from the two republican governments met in Tbilisi, capital of neighbouring Georgia, Saturday to discuss restoring rail, road and air links, TASS said.

These have been disrupted constantly in the past two years because of the conflict, sparked off by a dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian-majority part of Azerbaijan.

March 25.
The one-page handwritten statement in Arabic said the warnings against U.S. officials and interests was in response to "Washington's threats to Muslim Libya, especially against Al Rabta plant."

The group was referring to this month's fire at a chemical plant in Libya, which the U.S. had charged was producing chemical weapons but Libya said it was a pharmaceutical factory.

The statement warned: "Any aggression against any Muslim country is considered an aggression on all Muslims and the perpetrators will regret their actions."

The group also threatened Warsaw for "increasing its air flights to Israel carrying Soviet Jewish immigrants to the occupied territories."

"Therefore, the general command of the Islamic Army warns that Polish airlines offices and Polish embassies will be blown up at any feasible time anywhere in the world and Polish ambassadors and embassy staff will be physically liquidated," it added.

It vowed similar attacks on the Soviet Union's embassies and offices, but promised to halt such actions "if these countries retracted their decision to permit Soviet Jews to immigrate to Palestine or allowed the Jews to enter their countries."

The group's statement comes in wake of other protests and campaigns by Arab governments over the expected wave of Soviet Jewish emigrants to Israel and the possibility that the bulk of them could be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The statement followed a series of other leaflets by hardline Islamic factions in the Arab World vowing attacks against U.S. officials and threats against Moscow's interests in the Middle East.

Several Amman-based Islamic factions flatly denied any relationship to the group.

But sources at the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood party, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine was a "new party" based in a neighbouring country and is an affiliate to Hamas and Al Jihad Al Islami factions. They did not elaborate.

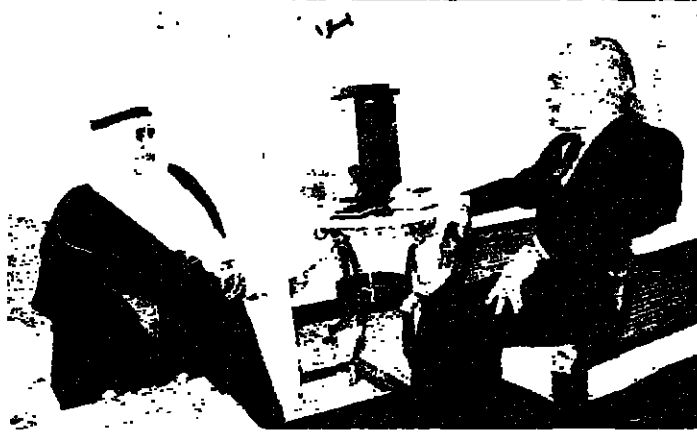
The Islamic Army warned the government of the United Kingdom for its alleged campaign on Iraq for the recent execution of British journalist Farazad Bazofi who was sentenced to death by an Iraqi revolutionary court earlier this month on charges of spying for Britain and Israel.

"We will shut up the government of the United Kingdom by any suitable means if England does not halt its campaign against Muslim Iraq," the statement said.

King receives Saudi message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at Al Nadda Palace Saturday Saudi Education Minister and Acting Higher Education Minister Abdul Aziz Al Abdullah (see photo), who conveyed to him a written message from King Fahd Ben Abdul

Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The meeting was attended by the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Saudi Ambassador to Jordan Sheikh Mohammad Fahd Al Issa. The Saudi minister left Amman later ending his brief visit to the Kingdom.



King receives Saudi message

AMMAN (Petra) — A revolution in the postal delivery system in Jordan is expected to materialize early next month as postmen will now start delivering mail to people's homes on motorcycles, in delivery trucks and on foot, according to a reliable source.

The source, who requested anonymity, said the ministry in charge of postal services had completed a feasibility study of the project and "will start the implementation stage at the beginning of May."

The ministry, according to the source, will make announcements in local newspapers and through mail boxes requesting home owners to "post private mail boxes in front of their homes to facilitate the duties of the postmen."

According to the source, the project was deemed possible "because Jordan enjoys such a remarkable road network which has not yet been utilized properly to provide services to the public."

In its initial stages the project will only be implemented in Amman, Zarqa and Irbid "where the streets are already numbered."

The cost of the project, according to the source, "will be paid through fees by homeowners to whom the service will apply." No special fee has been set yet on the source stressed that it will "not exceed the fee already paid by mail box owners."

But many citizens, contacted by the Jordan Times for reaction, expressed their fear of confusion by the postmen and their apprehension over the existing street-naming system in major cities.

"It would be wonderful if they delivered my mail to my home every day, but there will be a lot of confusion and I worry that they would lose my mail," Nader Al Hashi, a 40-year-old businessman, said.

The source, however, maintained that the ministry "is well prepared for this step and only job applicants who do very well in the orientation courses will be taken on."

Homeowners, however, will have to provide small mailboxes at the doors of their homes, and apartment buildings "will have to install small mail boxes for the residents at the entrance of buildings."

According to the source, the project will provide "hundreds of job opportunities" for unskilled Jordanian labourers who will receive training in street names through courses offered at the ministry.

In answer to a question on the future of existing mailbox centres around town, the source said: "The existing mailboxes will be redistributed to companies who are still interested in maintaining an anonymous mail box number."

Sulhair Nissam, an executive at one of Amman's major companies, expressed his exhilaration at such a step. "Our postal services are finally nearing sophistication," he said.

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Beidh tipped to replace Attas

ADEN (AP) — Ali Saleh Al Beidh, the acknowledged strongman in South Yemen since the civil war of 1986, is expected to become the official head of state, it was disclosed Saturday. The political bureau of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) is currently discussing the possibility of revamping the three top posts in the country, apparently to set its house in order in preparation for the merger with North Yemen, party sources said. The sources told the Associated Press that these changes, which involve the party leadership, the presidium and the cabinet of ministers, have been under discussion for two weeks. The party central committee will be called to meet within the following few days to make the relevant decisions, said the sources, who could not be named under party rules. They said Beidh, who is party secretary-general, would replace Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas, who is chairman of the presidium and commonly referred to as president. Attas will lead the cabinet while the current prime minister Youssef Saeed Noman will be devoted to party affairs, they said.

Cabinet orders relief action in southern regions

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday adopted a number of measures to help the drought-stricken south. The measures included an allocation of JD 500,000 to each of the governorates of Karak, Maan and Tafilah, the disbursement of food worth \$333,000 to each of the three governorates and the formation of local committees to supervise the implementation of these measures.

The measures also include the opening of artesian wells for water for animals, the distribution of free water to villages and the provision of six tankers for this purpose, the building of sand dams and the study of Wadi Musa's sewerage system.

The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, also decided to provide

each of the three governorates with a grader for opening country roads. It also decided to double the allocations for loans for livestock breeders. It decided to exempt municipalities in the region of 25 per cent of loans extended by the central government.

The Cabinet also approved the establishment of a hospital in Karak and the opening of new facilities at Maan hospital.

The Cabinet formed a committee of ministers and deputies to study youth projects in the region.

On education, the Council of Ministers authorised a study on possibilities for opening branches for Muta University of Maan and Tafilah.

It also decided to open a new telephone exchange in Maan with sub-exchanges in Wadi Musa and Shobak.

IMF okay expected for release of standby credit

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan, almost a year into a reform programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), began talks with IMF officials Saturday on disbursement of the next tranche of a \$77-million standby credit.

"We expect the talks to be very friendly and constructive and to end in approval of the next tranche," a Jordanian official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

He said Jordan would sign in mid-April a long-delayed rescheduling accord with commercial banks grouped in the London Club, paving the way for new loans of up to \$50 million.

Bankers involved in the deal confirmed that prospects for the new money had improved. They said doubts raised mainly by Kuwait-based banks, owed about 25 per cent of the country's 1.1 billion bank debt, seemed to have been surmounted.

"All the information we have is that the majority, say 90 or 95 per cent, of the new money is there," the official said.

This month Jordan repaid the last of London Club arrears of \$80 million originally due by the end of 1989, and plans to use any new money partly to cover 1990 interest due to banks.

The London Club steering committee agreed in November the fresh loans would carry interest at 13/16 point over LIBOR to be paid at the end of their three-year term, diplomats said.

Under an accord reached with the IMF in July, the Kingdom will get about \$44 million gross from the fund in 1990, split into four payments, two of which require meeting IMF-set targets. Net receipts will be about \$32.5 million, diplomats said.

IMF technical experts have been here for a week working out detailed performance criteria for the year, now to be discussed with the IMF's Middle East director, Shakkour Shaalan.

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U.S. House panel adopts resolution on Jerusalem

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee approved a resolution Thursday acknowledging Jerusalem as the "capital of Israel."

The measure — which had been approved by the full Senate March 22, was sent by the Foreign Affairs Committee to the House floor, where easy passage is expected next week.

Democratic Senator Daniel Moynihan introduced the resolution in the Senate. The companion House measure was offered by Democratic Congressman Eliot Engel. The two bills "ack-

nowledge that Jerusalem is and should remain the capital of the state of Israel." They also affirm the belief of the Congress that the city "must remain undivided" and that "the rights of every ethnic religious group" be protected.

The resolutions also call on "all parties" to press for negotiations between Israel and Palestinian representatives.

The two measures are concurrent resolutions, which merely express the opinion of Congress and which do not have the force of law.

Aoun-Geagea battles gather new intensity

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival forces battled into a third month for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave Saturday, hammering east Beirut with artillery barrages after night-long combat house to house under parachute flares.

Police said rebel army General Michel Aoun's howitzer batteries poured shells onto Beirut's port and the adjacent seaside Karantina district housing the military command of Christian warrior

Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia.

Geagea's gunners blasted the army-held mountain resort towns of Bekfaya, Brummana and 'Ain Saadeh with multi-barrelled rocket launchers.

"Why are these madmen raining death and destruction on us all over again?" screamed Madeleine Tabet, a Christian housewife reached by telephone at the basement of her home.

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Mousawi says no hostage release without concessions

BEIRUT (AP) — A Shi'ite Muslim leader has said kidnappers holding Western hostages in Lebanon will not release them unless the United States makes concessions.

"I don't believe that those who hold the hostages for a year or two or even five years will let them loose free of charge," said Hussein Mousawi in an interview broadcast by the Voice of Islam radio station in east Lebanon's ancient city of Baalbek.

The interview was quoted Saturday in Beirut's independent An Nahar newspaper.

Mousawi, who heads the pro-Syrian Islamic Amal wing inside Hizbollah, or Party of God, Iran's main Shi'ite ally in Lebanon, contended that Hizbollah holds none of the 18 Westerners missing in Lebanon.

"We are not concerned with the hostage issue. We do not have any hostages," Mousawi said.

"The hostages are held by security groups that maintain their individualities and take no orders from Hizbollah or Islamic Amal," Mousawi said.

Hizbollah is widely believed to be the umbrella for various Shi'ite hostage-holding factions, despite the party's public disclaimers.

Mousawi said the demands made by the kidnappers were "justified, irrespective of the plight of the hostages."

He listed the release of 15 convicted terrorists imprisoned in Kuwait for bombing the U.S. and French embassies there in 1983 plus the release of Arab prisoners in Israeli jails.

Freedom for the prisoners in Kuwait has been repeatedly demanded by Islamic Jihad, or Islamic holy war, the group that holds American hostages Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland.

Anderson, 42, the chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press who was abducted on March 16, 1985, is the longest-held of the hostages.

The captives are eight Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Italian and an Irishman.

Several other hostages have been held almost as long, including Sutherland, acting dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut, who was grabbed on June 9, 1985.

Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, which holds kidnapped U.S. professors Alan Stein, Robert Pollack and Jesse Turner, has demanded that 400 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners be freed from Israeli jails. Israel had re-

jected the demand.

"The United States and all those concerned with the hostages' issue should consider the rights of these people and how to return some of them," Mousawi said, adding:

"America influences Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Israel. Things are intermingled in the domain of global arrogance but all revolve within America's sphere of influence."

"If they want their hostages freed, then they have to make some moves with the Israelis, the Kuwaitis, the Saudis and the Maronites. Maronites kidnapped brothers of ours, believers, Iranian diplomats."

"Every usurped right is to be recovered. We are not directly involved in this problem but this is my personal analysis."

Three Iranian diplomats and their Lebanese driver, who also held an Iranian passport, were seized by Christian militiamen in July 1982. All are believed to be dead.

Mousawi said the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and France "know very well that Hizbollah and Islamic Amal are not connected with the hostages."

"We have watched the movement of some mediators. They know the names and have elaborate, definitive details about the group responsible for the (hostage) issue."

U.N. makes progress on Saharan conflict

NEW YORK (Agencies) — In a diplomatic foray into North Africa this week, the United Nations Secretary-General stepped up his efforts to break the impasse in the Western Sahara conflict.

Now that Namibia has gained its independence, the U.N. is turning its attention to resolving the 15-year-long dispute over the strategic desert region.

Javier Perez de Cuellar, whose trip to the region last June failed to produce a breakthrough, said that "this time I found a more propitious atmosphere."

He added that, "in a sense, we have made a certain progress. But to say that we have overcome all the difficulties, that would be going a little too far."

Perez de Cuellar met King Hassan II of Morocco at a royal palace in Rabat on March 25. The U.N. chief then travelled to refugee camps in desolate south-western Algeria on March 26 for consultations with the Polisario Front — Saharans who have been fighting against Morocco for independence in the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara.

The Polisario leader, Mohammed Abdel Aziz, told reporters in the refugee camps in Tindouf that the secretary-general's trip had been "very important and cannot fail to have very positive repercussions on the evolution of events."

Bechir Mustapha Sayed, the Polisario's second-in-command, said later that Perez de Cuellar had "raised the possibility of a peace process in the coming months."

Moroccan and Polisario sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, say they believe it is now possible to organise a referendum to settle the status of the disputed territory by the end of this year.

Both sides indicate that the balloting could begin within six months after reaching agreement on an official starting date.

"We are now beyond theoretical discussions," said one Moroccan diplomat. "We are now talking about the referendum and the operation itself."

A U.N. plan for the referendum was accepted in principle by both parties in August 1988.

But wrangling over details — and a resumption of Polisario attacks against Moroccan troops at several points along a movable 2,400-kilometre defensive wall enclosing most of the territory — moved the plan to the

back burner.

The Polisario say that Moroccan troops, settlers, and administration must go, if the election is to be free and fair.

The Moroccans argue that the U.N. alone would not be able to guarantee peace and security in the territory.

No details of the U.N. plan have been released, but diplomats who have seen it say it requires a "substantial" reduction in Moroccan forces, without specifying numbers.

Morocco now admits to having 90,000 troops in the territory, but Polisario have claimed the number is twice as high. Western diplomats in Morocco put it at around 120,000.

A truce is the next step. The Polisario say that it must be arranged directly with the Moroccans. The Moroccans say the secretary-general must call it.

Both sides do agree that only those listed in a 1974 Spanish census of the Western Sahara are eligible to vote. A U.N. technical team has now put those 74,000 names into a computer, and held consultations with Spanish experts who were actually involved in taking the original census.

Moroccan officials have said that they agree with the U.N. position that any non-Saharans in the territory — "Moroccan settlers," as the Polisario call them — would not vote.

Perez de Cuellar has indicated that he will report to the Security Council by mid-April. Going public with the plan — and the exact positions of the two parties — would be a way to apply some pressure.

Both Moroccan and Polisario sources confirm that the U.N. chief's special representative, Swiss diplomat Johannes Manz, visited the area in early March with a new proposal: The Polisario was asked to exercise restraint on the battlefield, and Morocco was asked to renew direct contacts with the Polisario at some level under U.N. auspices.

In response, the Polisario announced a unilateral ceasefire for the month of March.

At independence ceremonies in Namibia on Mar. 21, Perez de Cuellar held talks with Abdel Aziz. He also met with the Mauritanian delegation, whose country is closely involved in the conflict, then travelled to Morocco where he met with the Moroccan Foreign Minister, Abdul Latif Fillali.

Unknown group says it shot Polish couple

BEIRUT (AP) — A hitherto unknown group Saturday claimed responsibility for shooting the Polish commercial attaché and his wife in Beirut. It warned Poland against helping Soviet Jews travel to Israel.

The claim came in a handwritten Arabic statement from "The Revolutionary Action Organisation, the Arab Resistance Front — the martyr Suleiman Al Halabi unit," which was published by the Beirut leftist newspaper Al Safir. "Our group is behind the Polish diplomats' operation. We warn the Polish government against providing any assistance in transportation Soviet Jews to our sacred land in Palestine," said the statement.

The Polish attaché and his Lebanese wife were wounded when unknown assailants fired from automatic rifles as they were parking their embassy car near the Bristol hotel in west Beirut at 9:30 p.m. (1930 GMT) Friday.

The American University Hospital, to which the pair were rushed, said Saturday both were "doing fine. They are off the critical list."

In a dispatch from Warsaw, the Polish news agency PAP said the Polish Foreign Ministry "strongly condemns this terrorist act... Poland will undertake all efforts to counteract terrorism abroad."

The Foreign Ministry earlier had said it was aware of a decision to transport Soviet Jews to Israel in Polish airliners might have adverse effects for Poland. The newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza reported this week the ministry feared attacks on the 10,000 Poles employed in Arab countries.

Ethiopia expels 2 Libyan diplomats

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia said Saturday it was expelling two Libyan diplomats because their continued presence threatened national security.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Ali Awidan and Said Saied had engaged in activities incompatible with their status as members of the Libyan Peoples Bureau (embassy) in Addis Ababa.

Their continued stay in the country would prejudice national security and they should leave within 48 hours, the statement said. It gave no other details.

Earlier this month, a group of Ethiopian students demonstrated against what they called Libyan interference in Ethiopia's internal affairs. They called on Libya to stop destabilising Ethiopia.

In their protest on March 10 the students demonstrated outside the Libyan and Sudanese embassies in Addis Ababa to petition the governments of those countries to stop supporting rebel forces in Ethiopia.

The petition asked Libya and Sudan to "lay their hands off" Ethiopia's internal affairs.

The petition to Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qaddafi demanded that he "refrain from supporting and arming secessionist groups to wage civil war in Ethiopia," the Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) said in a report at the time on the student protest.

U.S. works to repeal U.N. Zionism resolution

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is working to repeal the 1975 United Nations resolution equating Zionism with racism, but will not call for a vote in the General Assembly unless a State Department official has said.

"We are taking action and will intensify our efforts during the 1990 session of the General Assembly," John Bolton, assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, told a congressional hearing.

"We must be most careful, nonetheless, to ensure that our efforts are not subverted by those hostile to Israel and to the Middle East peace process."

The Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs is considering a joint resolution calling on all U.N. members to repeal

General Assembly Resolution 3379.

Zionism, the movement to support the Jewish national state of Israel, is opposed by Israel's Arab neighbours and their allies.

The United States has been consulting with countries that originally voted for Resolution 3379 "but which have subsequently acquired new governments and new thinking," Bolton told the subcommittee.

"Our consultations are far from over but we have seen substantial evidence of shifts of opinion," he said, citing indications from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Mexico.

The United States is also talking with Arab countries and with nations that abstained or were absent for the 1975 vote or which joined the United Nations after that. Bolton said.

Jibril accuses Arafat of blocking attacks

DAMASCUS (R) — Lebanon-based fighters loyal to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat are preventing attacks by hardline Palestinians against Israel, a guerrilla leader said.

Ahmad Jibril, head of the hardline Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), said Arafat's "concessions" to Israel had achieved nothing and he should quit.

"Arafat has thousands of (fighters) in Sidon who are not firing any bullet at the Israelis," Jibril told a rally marking Land Day Friday.

"They are ready to fire against the nationalists... ready to prevent the guerrilla units (crossing) to the occupied territories."

Jibril, whose speech was sent to Reuters Saturday, said Arafat's recognition of Israel and abandonment of armed struggle had led only to greater Israeli obstinacy.

"We in the Palestinian revolution believe in the reunion of the Palestinian groups which still believe in fighting Israel. We have one basic condition: the resignation of Arafat and his leadership," he said.

Carter to try again to meet Arafat

ATLANTA (AP) — Former President Jimmy Carter has said he will try again to meet with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat on an upcoming trip to Western Europe.

Carter, who has been heavily involved in helping settle human rights problems and internal disputes since he left office in 1981, had planned to meet the PLO leader in Tunisia during a recent 12-day visit to the Middle East.

He said Arafat was delayed in his return from independence ceremonies in Namibia.

Carter told the Atlanta Press Club Friday that, in his opinion, "Arafat sees Namibia as a precursor to an independent Palestinian state."

Control of Namibia, formerly South-West Africa, was mandated to South Africa in 1915. It was the last colony in Africa.

Carter said he wants to talk to Arafat about the PLO charter,

which says that Israel must be destroyed, even though he noted that part of that statement has been repealed.

"I also want to round out my own knowledge of the Middle East," he said.

He said he will try again to meet with Arafat when he goes to Europe next week.

On another topic, Carter said: "I will never run for office again under any circumstances."

As a private citizen, Carter said, he can meet with revolutionary leaders, while as a representative of the United States he would be barred from talking with forces trying to oust an established government.

Carter said there were 131 conflicts in the world last year, 21 of them classed as "major" in which more than 1,000 people died.

"Only two of these were between nations," he said. "The rest were domestic."

Carter, who said he carries

dossiers of human rights data with him when he travels, said he goes directly to heads of state when he visits totalitarian countries.

"It does no good to hold press conferences," he said. "The press is controlled by the leader himself."

In Syria, on a previous visit, he said he persuaded President Hafez Al Assad to free five imprisoned Syrian Jews. He said he asked Assad on the recent visit to free three other Jews who had been jailed for illegally visiting Israel.

In Israel, he said, he got government promises to stop deporting mothers and children from the West Bank if they were not born there or had not lived there prior to the 1967 war.

Carter said Israel also promised to readmit some 250 people who had been deported on that basis.

Cheney concerned by arms proliferation in Mideast

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Defence Secretary Dick Cheney expressed concern March 30 that Iraq and other countries in the Middle East are acquiring weapons capable of massive nuclear and chemical destruction.

The secretary told members of the Association of American Publishers that while Iraq does not represent a threat directly to the United States today, "down the road there is every reason to expect that there will be a significant number of nations in the Third World who (will) have that kind of capability (and) who, at a minimum, will be able to put at risk our allies and U.S. forces overseas and eventually... to be able to threaten the United States itself."

Cheney used the proliferation of ballistic missiles to make a case for developing strategic defences to defend the United States and its allies. He pointed to Iraq as a country which already has tested its own ballistic missiles and noted that Iraqi citizens have been indicted for allegedly trying to smuggle 40 American-made nuclear detonators into their country.

Commenting on reports that a March 14 fire at the Libyan chemical weapons production facility in Rabta may have been faked, the secretary was asked if the United States still considered the facility to be a threat. He responded that "the plant is still there, it still has, presumably, some residual capability. How much it was damaged, obviously we don't know yet, and that's something that we look at very carefully."

In Capitol Hill, Democratic Senators Pete Wilson and Carl Levin have written Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn to express their concern about ballistic missile proliferation in the Middle East.

The two sent an open letter on March 29 asking for Nunn committee to examine what they termed "the growing problem of tactical missile proliferation in the Middle East as well as (U.S.) Department of Defence (DOD) efforts to counter this alarming threat."

The two senators noted press reports of an alleged attempt by Iraqi citizens to smuggle 40 American-made nuclear detonators into their country.

into their country and of Baghdad's accelerated intermediate-range ballistic missile programme.

"We believe the committee should explore with DOD the current U.S. programmes for both controlling the spread of IRBM (intermediate-range ballistic missiles) technologies to hostile Middle Eastern states and helping our regional allies to defend themselves against such weapons," they wrote.

Meanwhile a State Department official said Friday the United States is taking seriously the possibility that Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi deliberately set the fire earlier this month at a plant allegedly producing chemical weapons.

Earlier, the State Department said there was considerable doubt surrounding both the cause of the March 14 fire at the Rabta plant and the extent of damage. Spokesman Richard Boucher said the factory might still be operational.

Asked whether Qaddafi could have staged the blaze to make the world believe the plant 100 kilometres southwest of Tripoli

was no longer a threat, the senior official told Reuters:

"I don't think we can rule that out as a possibility but certainly no one has come to that conclusion yet. I'd say it's a serious possibility."

He said there was nothing to suggest Qaddafi was backing away from his desire to build a chemical weapons plant. "If he did set this fire by subterfuge, that's the clearest indication to date of his absolute commitment to continuing this production programme."

If it was a hoax, it appeared to have succeeded brilliantly at first. In the immediate aftermath of the blaze, Bush administration spokesmen declared that the plant was extensively damaged to the point that production was impossible.

Boucher said the government was reviewing all available evidence relating to the fire. The official said the U.S. intelligence community was divided about the causes of the fire and the amount of damage it caused.

Commercial satellite photographs taken a few days after the fire showed much of the plant

intact with little apparent structural damage.

"Important uncertainties remain regarding both the cause and extent of damage at Rabta. Therefore no definitive conclusions have been reached. The possibility remains that Libya can still produce chemical warfare agents," Boucher said.

Libya, which says the plant was for making medicines, had said the fire was an act of sabotage perhaps by U.S. or Israeli or West German agents.

The new assessment follows statements from Bush administration officials this week that Libya has tested a system to refuel fighter-bombers in an apparently successful step toward improving its ability to attack Israel and other targets in the region.

The possibility of a hoax first surfaced last week when a Libyan opposition group alleged the blaze was staged.

The National Front for the Salvation of Libya, which operates in exile, said in a statement that Qaddafi ordered the blaze to pre-empt a possible U.S. strike and justify a crackdown on dissidents.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
15:50 Football
15:55 News summary in Arabic
16:00 Local programme
16:05 Cultural programme
16:10 Local programme
16:15 Programme review
16:20 News in Arabic
16:25 News in Arabic
16:30 News in Arabic
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16:45 News in Arabic
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PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Des Chiffres et de Lettres
17:35 L'école de Bas
17:40 News in French
17:45 Anjou/Hu en France
17:50 News in French
17:55 Varieties programme
18:00 News in Arabic
18:05 News in Arabic
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PRAYER TIMES

04:02 Fajr
05:21 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:40 Dhuhr

CHURCHES

15:12 'Asr
17:58 Maghreb
19:17 'Isha

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Southfield, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Roman Catholic Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 715331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932.

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A cold storm accompanied by a

USEFUL TELEPHONE

depression will affect the country, making it relatively cold and partly cloudy, and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be westerly fresh. In Amman, it will be hazy and partly cloudy with southerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 5/13
Aqaba 12/24
Dera'a 4/16
Jordan Valley 12/21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Aqaba 26. Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.

NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Awni Al-Hawandeh 777665
Dr. Fayez Jallouh 624207
Dr. Majed Abu Saeid 881635
Dr. Salehman Al-Daboubi 776771
Fire pharmacy 622520
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Azaza pharmacy 637055
Nairouz pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730

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Jordan, PLO work confidently towards future

By Rama Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — A small girl waving a Palestinian flag at a pro-intifada rally in Amman climbs into the lap of a stranger — Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

The scene on Friday night illustrated how much relations between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have warmed since 1970 when they fought a virtual civil war.

Ties improved when Amman relinquished its claim to the Israeli-held West Bank in July 1988 and have been consolidated by the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel, which both Jordan and the PLO see as a direct threat.

At the rally on Friday Badran and senior officials joined 4,000 people marking Land Day, the anniversary of the 1976 killing by Israeli police of six Israeli Arabs protesting at land expropriation.

"We are all Jordanians in defence of Jordan and we are all Palestinians in defence of Palestine," Palestinian Ambassador Tayeb Abdul Rahim told the crowd.

Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, speaker of the Palestine National Council said: "King Hussein has spared no effort in Western capitals and on all occasions to highlight the role of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

"The King is also campaign-

ing on all fronts to halt the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe (to Israel)," he said.

The two sides feel a joint threat from the migration, which they fear might force a mass exodus of Palestinians across the Jordan River. Right-wing Israelis contend Jordan is the homeland of Palestinians.

At the rally Badran and Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar pledged support for the 28-month-old uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and said Jordanian-Palestinian unity should be strengthened.

Demonstrators who marched at Jordan's three civilian universities Saturday sounded

the same themes.

They chanted pro-PLO slogans with no interference from police who once had orders to suppress overt displays of support for the organisation or its leader Yasser Arafat.

"What was taboo two years back has become normal," one Palestinian official said. "The two sides have matured and are working confidently towards the future."

Jordanian and Palestinian analysts agree that Jordan's move to hand the PLO responsibility for the West Bank removed most of the distrust that had clouded Jordanian-PLO ties.

Jordanian moves towards democracy have also helped. In the last few months Am-

man has welcomed back many Palestinians with Jordanian passports who had been forced into exile in Syria and elsewhere because of their political views.

Hundreds of Jordanian and Palestinian activists have come back to reclaim confiscated passports and some have stayed.

Two hardline Damascus-based PLO groups, once sworn enemies of the regime, are resuming open political work in Jordan.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) had set up a Jordanian offshoot named the Jordan Peoples Democratic Party. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) will

decide in May whether to do the same.

The PLO's information minister, Yasser Abed Rabbo, was in Amman this week to discuss with his Jordanian counterpart how Jordan radio and television can help the intifada.

Jordan Television, widely viewed in the West Bank, is to broadcast the programmes of Al Quds Open University, being set up to counter Israel's closure of West Bank universities.

Other such cooperation with the PLO is planned, including production of a new Hebrew-language programme to complement Jordan Television's existing news bulletin in Hebrew.

PLO official pays tribute to Jordan

Israeli Labour has historic peace chance — Abed Rabbo

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israel has no alternative but to negotiate directly with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and recognise the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence so that peace can be achieved in the Middle East, according to PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo.

"The Israeli Labour Party has a historic chance to make peace with the Arabs and the door is open now for talks with the PLO to settle the Palestine problem," Abed Rabbo said in an interview with Jordan Television Channel Two, telecast Saturday evening.

He said the Israelis should realise that the uprising of the Palestinian people "is irrefragable" and that the resistance "will continue until the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people have been fulfilled."

Speaking on the television programme "Encounter," Abed Rabbo said that Jordan had taken "a historic decision by severing ties with the West Bank because it paved the way for a new stage in Jordanian-PLO relations."

"The Jordanian decision, taken in July 1988, provided a great support for the intifada and the Palestinian people's struggle," Abed Rabbo said.

"There is an urgent need for a unified Arab stand to deal with the question of Jewish immigration to Palestine, and there is an urgent need for a pan-Arab resolution at the highest possible level with regard to the United States, Europe and the Soviet Union," Abed Rabbo said.

"The Arab World should exercise pressure in all directions to reach a solution for this problem because continued immigration to Palestine constitutes a flagrant violation of the international law and human and national rights of the Palestinian people as well as the human rights of the emigrants themselves because they are forced to travel to a single destination," he said.

The PLO official said that the Palestinian peace initiative was "a historic decision taken by the PLO and not a form of tactics designed to achieve peace."

"We will adhere to this peace option despite continued Israeli

provocations," Abed Rabbo added.

His visit to Jordan, Abed Rabbo said, came at the invitation of the Ministry of Information in Amman to raise the level of cooperation and coordination between the PLO and Jordan.

"The two sides have reached a series of agreements on bilateral cooperation in television and culture designed to back the uprising of the Palestinian people," he said.

Abed Rabbo said that the two sides decided on producing Hebrew-language television programme to influence Israeli public opinion and agreed on cooperation on joint television production, drama and theatre in an effort to promote the uprising.

"As of the coming scholastic year, Jordan Television will start transmitting programmes for the Al Quds Open University students in the occupied Arab territories," Abed Rabbo said.

Last Monday, Abed Rabbo delivered a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Palestine President Yasser Arafat dealing with Jordan-PLO cooperation.

Industry fair to open

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian industrial fair is to be organised in Amman during the month of Ramadan to display samples of national products.

A report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday said that the fair would open by the middle of the month at the King Abdullah Garden Complex in Wadi Sagra.

It said that the fair will remain open until Eid al Fitr, the feast, which marks the end of the month of Ramadan.

Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz earlier this month said that the government's main concern at present is to encourage the production of high quality goods which can bring in revenues for Jordan when sold abroad.

Addressing a meeting held at the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) head-office, called to discuss problems facing industrial investments and exports, the minister emphasised the need to promote vocational training since, he said, "the worker is the main factor in the production of good and competitive products for foreign markets."

Addressing the same meeting Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy Governor Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani said that the CBJ has allowed Jordanian exporters to retain 30 per cent of the total cost of exports in foreign currency and allowed financial institutions to import primary goods and spare parts as a way to encourage industrial investments in the country.

Hourani announced that the CBJ was now preparing to establish a special financial institution to finance exports and the purchase of requirements for production of industrial goods for export.

ACC rallies behind Iraq against charges of nuclear smuggling

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The four-country Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) assailed Britain and Western media Saturday for their treatment of one of its members, Iraq.

The Amman-based ACC, which groups Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen, urged Britain and the West to halt the "unjust campaign aimed at preparing world opinion for possible aggression" against Iraq and diverting attention from an influx of Soviet Jews to Israel.

An ACC statement said the campaign was "flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs" and an assault on "its legitimate right to defend its national security and sovereignty."

The ACC, formed in February 1969, is an economic alliance but its members also try to coordinate foreign policy.

On Saturday Britain deported an Iraqi arrested at Heathrow airport three days earlier after customs agents foiled an alleged plot to smuggle 40 nuclear triggers to Baghdad.

The affair has further strained relations between Britain and Iraq, already at odds over Iraq's execution two weeks ago of Farzad Bazoft, a London-based journalist convicted of spying.

Iraq has denied it tried to buy triggers for nuclear weapons, saying the U.S.-made electrical components confiscated in Britain could have been used for many other purposes.

"The current campaign against Iraq is designed to mobilise world public opinion against the Arab country and to justify an act of aggression against it," the ACC statement said.

"This campaign is considered as a flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs and a violation of Iraq's legitimate right to defend its security and sovereignty, and is also a way to mislead world public opinion and divert attention from the ongoing Jewish emigration to Palestine in violation of international laws and the

legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their own homeland," the statement said.

The statement, which strongly denounced the British government's campaign, said that Iraq "has the full right like any other country to provide itself with the proper means to defend its security and to contribute towards the protection of pan-Arab security."

The statement said that the ACC countries "are keen to establish and develop constructive relations with Britain and the other Western European countries," and appealed to the British government to halt "this unjust campaign which aims at threatening security in the Middle East and endanger world peace."

Jordanian dailies Saturday expressed total support for Iraq's stand, and in editorials and opinion columns they linked the current Western campaign to Zionist plans and ambitions.

The affair has put pressure on relations between Britain and Iraq.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has said the alleged attempt to smuggle the triggers was "very, very serious," but Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said it would be against British interests to sever relations or expel Iraq's ambassador.

Iraq has denied it tried to buy triggers for nuclear weapons, saying the U.S.-made electrical components confiscated in Britain could have been used for many other purposes.

A statement carried by the Iraqi News Agency said that Iraq held Britain responsible for "the consequences of its measures... (and) reserved the right to take measures on the basis of reciprocal treatment."

In Tunis, the Arab League said it supported Iraq's claim to the "transfer of technology" and called on Britain to exercise self-control, according to a Tunis radio report monitored in London by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Tunis meeting studies means to back intifada

TUNIS (J.T.) — A committee grouping Jordan and seven other Arab states has opened a meeting at the Arab League headquarters here to discuss ways of supporting the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands.

Delegates from Syria, Iraq, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Palestine, Jordan and the Arab League General Secretariat met on the second day of Arab Land Day, an anniversary marking the 1976 protests against Israeli confiscation of Arab land in the Galilee and the killing of six Arab protesters.

An Arab League spokesman said that the committee discussed a pan-Arab diplomatic offensive on the international level to draw attention to dangers inherent in Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied territories.

The committee was formed by the Arab states' foreign ministers who met here earlier in March to discuss the Palestine issue and the Jewish immigration to Palestine.

In Irbid, students from Yarmouk University staged a procession Saturday in observance of the Land Day anniversary.

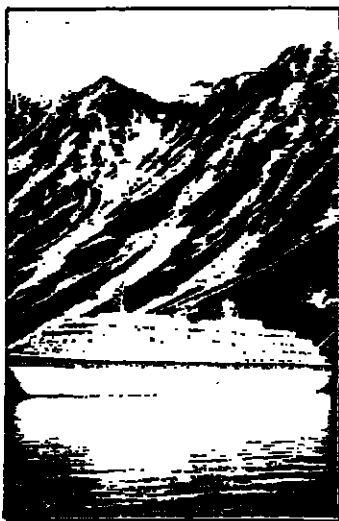
Students delivered speeches on the occasion voicing the Arab youth's determination to pursue support for the Palestinian people involved in the intifada against the Israeli occupation.

In Amman, a major event was organised Friday under the patronage of Prime Minister Mudar Badran during which speeches were delivered on Land Day.

Badran, who addressed the audience at the Palace of Culture said that Jordan and Palestine represented the most vital part of pan-Arab resistance against Zionist expansionism.

The prime minister said that the flow of thousands of Jews to be settled in the occupied Arab territories was a dangerous situation threatening the Arabs.

Other events and processions were held in Jordan Friday to commemorate the anniversary.



Luxurious ferry docks at Aqaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — The modern cruise ship, M/V "Europa," operated by the German Lines, Hapag-Lloyd A.G. Hamburg, and agent by T. Gargour and Fils, docked at Aqaba port last Thursday with 588 passengers on board to visit the historical city Petra, Wadi Rum and Aqaba, within its "all over the world" cruises.

The Ministry of Tourism, and the Aqaba Ports Corporation had extended all possible facilities to make a successful call to "Europa" to encourage such cruises to the area.

The Jordan Armed Forces Musical Band also welcomed the arrival of Europa by arranging a special concert and show, alongside the ship union its arrival to the port.

The M/V Europa is calling Aqaba annually as part of its "all over the world" cruises.

Officials say food supplies adequate, warn violators

AQABA (J.T.) — A consignment of 6,400 tonnes of Canadian wheat worth \$1.75 million sent as a gift to Jordan has arrived here and is being unloaded to be stored at the Ministry of Supply warehouses, according to port officials.

A total of 50,000 tonnes of wheat from another ship is also being unloaded at the port city, the officials said.

The wheat arrived here over the past two days along with other consignments of food supplies like frozen chicken, dried milk, barley and corn.

A ship laden 50,000 tonnes of various other products for the Ministry of Supply is expected on April 13, the officials said.

The arrival of the food supplies in Aqaba coincided with a statement by Minister of Supply Nabil Abdul Huda who affirmed that sufficient quantities of Bulgarian meat would be distributed Saturday in Amman at JD 1.8 per kilogramme.

Meat has been in short supply, and the Ministry of Supply has made arrangements for shipments from Turkey and Bulgaria to meet the local demand, specially during the month of Ramadan.

Abul Huda Saturday toured various markets in Al Hussein camp, Al Nuzha, Al Mahatta and inspected centres for the sale of imported meat, greengroceries



Nabil Abdul Huda

and other stores. Later he visited the Amman slaughter-house where he watched the process of distribution of imported fresh meat.

In Tafleh, Saturday governor Khalaf Mahameh met with food supply merchants at the city's Chamber of Commerce to review the supply situation. He announced that sufficient meat, and other, basic commodities were being made available and warned merchants against raising the prices fixed by the Ministry of Supply.

Mahameh urged local citizens to report to his office any manipulation of prices.

In Amman, teams of Ministry of Supply officials were seen over the past three days conducting intensive inspection tours of various greengroceries and other stores to ensure that their owners do not violate the Ministry of Supply's regulations concerning prices.

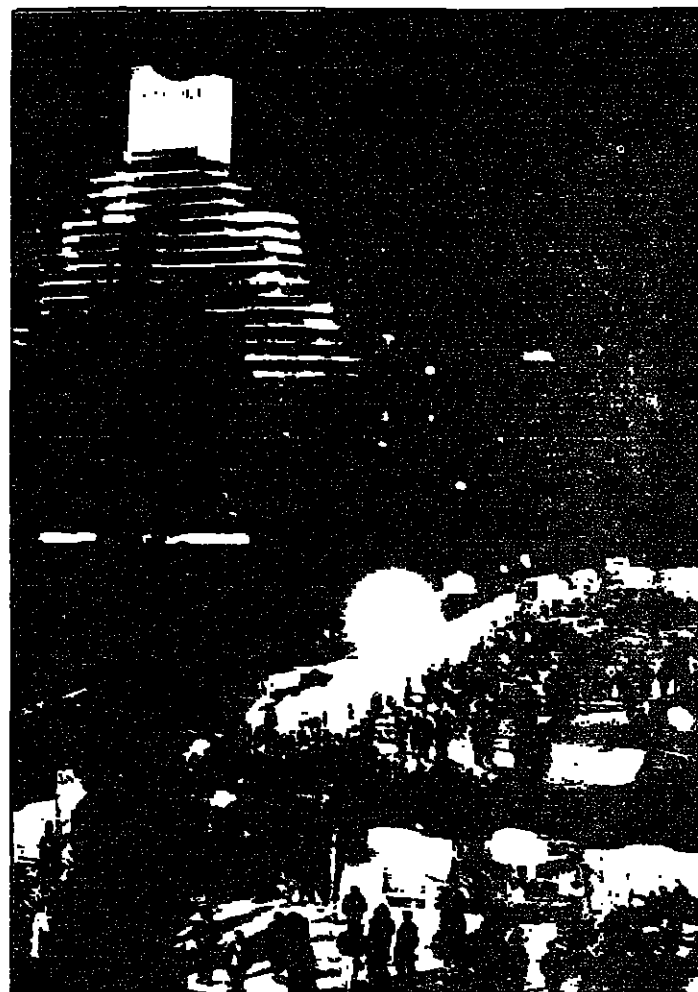
In remarks to citizens protests against a relative rise in the price of many vegetables and fruits, Minister of Agriculture Sulaiman Arabiyat said that the increase in prices was normal during this transitional period between agricultural cycles when limited quantities of good quality vegetables and fruits normally grow.

Arabiyat, in a statement published in Al Dustour daily Saturday, said that prices of fruits and vegetables would drop dramatically by the middle of April when more good quality agricultural products will appear on the market.

Arabiyat also said that Jordan could not stop exports of its products in order to suffice the local market's needs.

"Such a move would mean closing the door for Jordan's marketing of its products abroad," he said.

"The frost spells that hit Jordan in the past month had had serious effects on production," he added.



STROLL AFTER IFTAR: Crowds through the area around the Housing Bank complex after the Ramadan iftar, shopping and having fun (Photo by Yusef Al Allan)

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Malta

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable of good wishes to the president of Malta on his country's national day. The King wished the president continued health and happiness and further progress for the Maltese people.

2 killed in road accident

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two persons were killed and six others were injured in a road accident that involved a pick up truck and a small car Friday. Al Ra'i daily said that the two cars collided head on at the Baader Wadi Seer Street, killing Karim Bakir and his wife Aseel Roukh. The injured are being treated at the King Hussein Medical Centre.

Handicrafts, food exhibition opened

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shreideh Saturday opened an exhibition of handicrafts and foodstuffs organised at Al Qadesieh Community College in Amman. The 10-day exhibition displays embroideries, ceramics, woolen clothes and food produced by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the Jordan Women Federation, the Qadesieh College and the Mamounieh School.

Jordan takes part in cartoon exhibition

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Jordan along with four other Arab states are taking part in exhibition of cartoons which opened in Damascus Saturday. The exhibition, which was organised to mark Land Day in occupied Palestine, depicts the general situation in the occupied Arab lands and social, economic and political situation in the Arab World. A total of 11 artists from Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Palestine and Bahrain are taking part in the exhibition.

Belgians hold convention in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 240 Belgian pharmaceuticals will Sunday open a week-long convention at Amman Plaza Hotel to discuss plans for marketing products in Europe, mainly in Italy. The group, which represents Belgian pharmaceutical industries, will be touring various touristic and archaeological sites in Jordan in accordance with a programme organised by the Amman Plaza Hotel.

Yarmouk hosts Islamic book exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yarmouk University President Ali Mahafza Saturday opened an Islamic book exhibition at the lectures and seminars hall of the university's mosque. The two-week exhibition, which is organised by the university's Islamic Studies Centre, includes books on different Islamic topics, literature, psychology, sociology, education, philosophy, law and history as well as encyclopaedias and dictionaries.

British students visit Karak

KARAK (Petra) — A group of students of agriculture from the British University of Redding visited Karak Saturday and were briefed on agricultural and regional development by acting Karak governor Eid Al Alayan. The group later visited agricultural stations and met with the agricultural department's director.

IMF approval expected

(Continued from page 1)

Badran steered an austerity 1990 budget through the freshly-elected Parliament.

Finance Minister Basel Jaradaneh said last week differences with the IMF over the projected budget deficit had been settled.

Diplomats said it was not clear what had been agreed concerning the problem of unbudgeted interest payments of about \$250 million due this year to service military debt.

Jardaneh has said an armaments fund from which such payments are supposed to be made would stay off the budget. The Finance Committee of the Lower House of Parliament has said the fund has a hefty deficit.

Jordan must still sign bilateral rescheduling agreements with Britain, Belgium, Sweden and Kuwait to complete a Paris Club rescheduling deal reached with official creditors in July.

The original deadline was February 28, but the Paris Club has had to extend it by three months.

With minor delays Jordan has met its international payments without receiving any Arab aid this year and the dinar, which stopped sliding in August, has

stayed surprisingly firm. Jardaneh said Jordan had received less than \$50 million out of anticipated 1990 receipts of about \$750 million in foreign loans and grants.

He was confident Arab donors would give at least \$360 million and Japan would match a World Bank structural adjustment loan of \$150 million now being disbursed.

He forecast that foreign reserves would rise to \$650 million compared to \$500 million at the end of 1989, though they had slipped temporarily to \$380 million.

Jardaneh said the reserves include up to \$280 million in deposits commercial banks must keep at the Central Bank, but did not give full details of how the figures were calculated.

Diplomats said Jordan wanted fast-disbursing Japanese loans of \$150 million. About \$110 million might come from recycling the undischursed part of a \$300-million soft development loan and the rest from Japan's Export-Import Bank.

"Things are not all rosy," the official said of Jordan's financial position. "But we feel we are in good shape."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of plastic artists Arij Al Hamad and Ibrahim Al Nabaimeh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Issam Al Tantiawi at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Man and Land" by Jordanian artist Khalil Ghawameh at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- ★ Arabic children's play entitled "Al Shabab" (the witness) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "An American in Paris" at the American Cultural Centre — 3:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

Tel: 667171

By Dr. Fahed Faneh

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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False rumours to benefit Israel

ISRAEL IS hurriedly fanning false rumours suggesting that enlightenment and democracy in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe would also usher in a new wave of anti-Semitism in these countries, in a bid to cause a Jewish stampede to Israel. There are already many signs from these countries suggesting that Israel is busy fabricating or orchestrating anti-Semitism incidents there to fuel its campaign of spreading fears among the Jews of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and then lure them to leave their ancestral homelands. Such Israeli scenarios purport to claim that democracy and pluralism in the socialist countries are anathema to Jews and Jewish interests. This is of course absurd and defies every reasonable logic. This is not to mention the fact that this is not the first time that Zionism has resorted to the tactics of concocting false stories about imminent dangers to the lives and properties of Jewish people outside Israel. As far back as the first and second world wars, Zionism exploited such fears among Jewish communities not only in Nazi Germany where they were real but also elsewhere in the world to beef up its population on Palestinian lands. Fortunately not too many Jews had fallen prey to such Zionist fabrications and manipulations and that is why Israel's population had remained at a standstill for such a long time. Recently, however, Israel's scare campaign has begun all over again to lure Jews from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union to swell its dwindling population as if to prepare for another conquest of Arab lands and territories. From the Arab point of view, the ongoing manipulation of events in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe by Zionism is a "deja vu" policy that is reminiscent of bygone days when even atrocities were committed against Jewish communities at the instigation of Israeli agents for the avowed purpose of causing mass exodus of Jews from foreign lands to Israel.

It will be in order therefore to initiate a counter campaign with a view to allaying the artificial Jewish fears trumped up by Israel and to caution the gullible would-be immigrants that their emigration in such numbers would sooner or later precipitate a conflagration between Israel and the Arab countries in which many hundreds of thousands would perish. There is no way that freedom and democracy based on pluralism will spell danger to Jewish communities and the sooner the Arab World invites the socialist countries to initiate a counter campaign against Israel's doctored drive, the better off would be these Jewish people as well as the Arab peoples that could be adversely affected by their massive influx into their midst. Besides, this is no time to sow distrust between the Arabs and Jewish peoples. The peace process in the Middle East is so fragile and vulnerable as it is and massive Jewish immigration now would only add fuel to the raging fire in the region.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

ANY political, military or economic achievement accomplished by the Arab countries seems to arouse the hatred and hostility of the Arab Nation's enemies who hate the Arab order, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily in an editorial Saturday referring to the current hostile campaign being launched by Britain against Iraq. The paper said that since Iraq executed the British Israeli spy Bazoff, Britain has been involved in a series of campaigns directed against Baghdad. Those behind the campaigns had forgotten that Bazoff was a common criminal imprisoned several times in London, and who had been provided with documents enabling him to travel abroad and serve the Israeli intelligence service, the paper noted. It said that the campaign has now reached such proportion that calls are heard demanding that Iraqis working and living legally in Britain be evicted in retaliation. This systematic campaign against Iraq is a campaign against Iraq's victory in the war against Iran, and it is a campaign directed against the whole Arab Nation which offered great sacrifices, said the paper. Indeed this campaign is serving the interests of world Zionism and aimed to divert world public attention from the ongoing Jewish immigration into Palestine, the paper continued.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Saturday discusses the question of holidays for schools, community colleges and universities in the light of a decision by the Ministry of Education to re-consider the schools' spring holiday. Salah Abdul Samad says that when first introduced, the spring holiday was hailed by the Ministry of Education as a beneficial period of time, most useful for the students. But we are now surprised to see the same Ministry of Education trying to get rid of the spring holiday and that a special committee has prepared a recommendation, giving justification why this holiday should be terminated, the writer notes. He says that there were calls soon after the introduction of the spring holiday several years ago that it won't benefit the students, but all calls went in vain, and the ministry found reason to introduce this arrangement. However, he says, the introduction and the cancelling of this holiday should serve as a lesson from which all educationists at the ministry should benefit in future planning of holidays for schools.

Al Dustour daily said that the current Western campaign against Iraq for the execution of the Iranian British spy Bazoff is closely linked to the Zionist movement. This campaign presented the execution as a major catastrophe for mankind; and those behind the campaign assumed the advocacy of Bazoff's case and are active now mobilising the whole world against Iraq, the paper noted. The paper said that the American and British media are specially active in this campaign levelling new and false accusations against Iraq. It is noticed that whenever plots are being hatched against the Arab Nation they are preceded by hostile campaigns which pave the way for an aggression, the paper noted. It said that Western countries where the Zionists are particularly active tend to lead such campaigns and carry out such intimidations.

Sunday Economic Pulse

Economic crisis contained

JORDANIANS have always felt that there was something wrong and unquiet about their national economy. The period of boom and progress (1972-1982) was always thought of as being threatened by external and internal factors, that it may not last and that growth will not continue at high rate.

The first signals of a forthcoming crisis started to build up in 1982, but government of the time failed to take notice and declare economic emergency. The government preferred to buy more time, at any price, hoping that some-

how a miracle will save Jordan from reaching the point of crisis. Jordan's economic future was left dependent on favourable political developments that proved to be false.

By 1988, all means to buy time and postpone the moment of truth were exhausted and the crisis erupted.

Some of the major factors that contributed to the problem included: Jordanians' tendency to live beyond their own means, the country's security burden resulting from its geographic situation as a confrontation state and a buffer zone between Arab oil

wealth, and the Israeli war machine, the failure of Arab oil exporting countries to honour their financial commitments, and heavy borrowing to finance military hardware, unproductive infrastructure and inefficient projects.

The signs of crisis were abundant. The problem resulted in three major developments:

(1) The dinar suddenly lost around half of its value against other foreign currencies; (2) the cost of living rose by around one third over 15 months; and (3) Jordan

announced its inability to service its huge external debts, and called on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for help in adjusting its economy and rescheduling its debts.

Eighteen months after the crisis, one can safely say that the old attitude of carelessness was abandoned and the government took proper action without further waste of time. The adjustment programme was in place in April 1989; the results started to show up almost immediately on the fundamentals of the economy.

Exports rose by 15 per cent

in dollar terms; imports dropped by 15 per cent; the deficit in the budget narrowed by one third; the Central Bank started to rebuild its foreign reserves; the exchange rate stabilised as of August 1989; and inflation finally subsided as of February 1990.

In general one can say that although the crisis was not solved, it was at least contained. The situation is no more deteriorating as it did all through the eighties, and Jordan was able to prevent the crisis from developing into total economic collapse.

As for the future, there are reasons to be cautiously optimistic. Jordan can grow out of its economic problem if the adjustment programme was adhered to — whole heartedly — and if Arab oil exporting countries realised the importance of Jordan's economic and political stability and security, and extended financial support to Jordan to help it overcome its difficulties and continue to function as a healthy and strong buffer between them and Israel and at the same time remain the moderate country it has always been.

Superpower detente brings no quick peace dividend for Asia

By Roger Crabbs
Reuters

TOKYO — The Berlin Wall is coming down, NATO and Warsaw Pact chiefs fraternise as if the cold war were just a bad dream, yet Asian governments ruling half of mankind are heaping still more money on the military.

While politicians in Europe and the United States talk openly of a "peace dividend" — the hoped-for saving of massive sums hitherto earmarked for defence — there seems little chance of that happening in Asia.

Asia's big powers are determined not to lower their guard and China and India have both announced big jumps in military spending.

Continuing tension in north Asia is forcing Japan — Washington's principal ally in the region — to keep up its massive expenditure, while South Korea remains locked in confrontation with Communist North Korea.

In Indochina, Vietnam says it will reduce its 1.1 million-strong army to half a million now that it has withdrawn from Cambodia but in that country civil war grinds on and Phnom Penh is looking to enlarge its military strength.

Neighbouring Thailand maintains a high level of vigilance, with defence remaining at about 18 per cent of total budget.

The biggest spending increase is in India, which already has the world's third largest army and the region's biggest navy.

In late March Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's government announced plans to raise its military budget to 157.5 billion rupees (\$9.54 billion) for 1990-91, a 21 per cent increase over last year.

"This increase in defence expenditure is not of our choice. It is the direct result of the situation on our borders," said Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate.

While he did not name them, India's two big defence worries are Pakistan and China.

India says Pakistan is arming and training secessionists in disputed Punjab and Kashmir, charges that Islamabad denies. The two countries have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, and New Delhi says U.S. arms supplies to Pakistan are a major reason for its own big defence bill.

India's military build-up began under Singh's predecessor, Rajiv Gandhi. Western diplomats say Gandhi wanted to make India a dominant Asian power, with naval control of the Indian Ocean and a 1.2 million-strong army that could be rapidly deployed in South Asian trouble spots.

Gandhi demonstrated this policy in 1987 by sending 50,000 troops to Sri Lanka to fight Tamil

rebels — the last units rebased only in March this year. In 1988 he despatched a force to the Maldives to help the government there crush a coup.

India also has a long-running border dispute with China, with whom it fought a limited war in 1962.

Over the past decade China has built up its ability to take part in regional conflicts, diplomats in Peking say. But for the moment the world's most populous nation seems absorbed by its own grave domestic problems.

Commentators agree the decision by Peking's hardline leaders to boost military spending more than 15 per cent in the coming year to 28.9 billion yuan (\$6.1 billion) was motivated less by international concerns as by a need to ensure the loyalty of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

China's geopolitical situation improved markedly in 1989 when a historic rapprochement with Moscow after decades of hostility brought hopes of lowered tensions.

Only weeks later, however, elderly politicians panicky at mass anti-government demonstrations in Tiananmen Square sent troops into central Peking to crush them, killing hundreds, possibly thousands of civilians.

Since then the official press, tacitly confirming reports of unprecedented discussion within the PLA over its new "internal security" role, has carried repeated appeals to the military to show unwavering loyalty to the Communist Party.

Along with exhortations have come more funds. "It's the payoff for being loyal and true," said a Western analyst.

While China looks resolutely inwards, however, Japan looks out towards mainland Asia and doesn't like what it sees.

Invoking what they call an undiminished Soviet threat in Asia and fierce tensions on the Korean peninsula, Japanese defence officials want military spending to remain at a total for the next five years of around 23,000 billion yen (\$147 billion).

South Korea still spends five per cent of its gross national product on defence and shows no sign of reducing that figure. Pyongyang spends 24 per cent of its much smaller GNP.

Seoul, which has long relied heavily on U.S. support for its defence, estimated last year it could become self-sufficient by 1996 if it continued spending at the same level.

In 1989, South Korea spent 6,300 billion won (\$9 billion) on defence and economic planners expect this to rise in 1990 to almost 6,900 billion (\$9.85 billion). At current rates, the increase barely outpaces inflation.

Money helps, but so does experience

By Philippa Neave

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Although Eastern Europe only recently exploded onto the world's TV screens, some experts in Washington have been quietly watching the region for decades, waiting for something to happen. Suddenly, those experts who were paid to think and analyse the situation in Eastern Europe are coming to the forefront, because it's time to act.

Ironically, the foundations and think-tanks considered most conservative are the ones being asked for advice by countries whose politics used to be at the other end of the political spectrum. One such think-tank is the Heritage Foundation, a privately funded policy research institute. Seven of the foundation's researchers recently returned from the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, all annexed by the USSR at the time of World War II), where they had been doing out advice to top officials on how to transform a one-party dictatorship with a centrally planned economy to a multiparty democracy operating a market-driven economy.

Among the advisers was Stuart Butler, a senior economist with the foundation and a privatisation expert. "We had dealings with people in power as well as opposition groups," said British-born Butler of his trip to Estonia. "We gave decision-makers, from the prime minister down, practical advice on how to achieve economic change within a political framework. We were focusing on transition and the constraints that they as politicians would have."

The tasks facing leaders in the Baltic and Eastern European states are colossal, he said, not fundamentally different from past situations in some Western European countries. Butler cited the case of Britain's Margaret Thatcher, who in the early 1980s forced considerable changes in that country's economics. The "Iron Lady" earned her nickname by shutting down outmod-

ed, debt-ridden heavy industries and by privatising large state-run concerns. Said Butler, "the old heavy industries were just sinkholes for subsidies. The shipbuilding industry centred in Scotland was shut down. For a year or so there was panic and mass unemployment, but now the area is called Silicon Glen. The same people who worked in production-line jobs have been retrained in light electronics industries."

Though what happened in Britain can serve as a model, Butler said, it will take some time to overturn the pervasiveness of state rule in the economic affairs of Eastern Europe. Citing the Baltics as an example, he added that the key lies in creating a small-business sector. "As all East-bloc countries, the Baltics have a significant underground economy of black-market entrepreneurs. We talked about how to let the small sector flourish and become a major segment of the economy."

One of Butler's colleagues at the foundation, policy analyst Douglas Seay, 33, who was also in Estonia, argued that thought patterns will have to change first. "The Eastern Europeans could preside over a rapid change of their economies if they get over the notion of wanting to plan that change too much. Get rid of the bureaucracy, get it out of the way of the entrepreneurs," he recommended.

The notion of competition as a positive and stimulating force is generally alien to most Eastern Europeans, Butler noted. "I found it was like talking to intelligent people who had never been exposed to economics before." In the food and services industry, for example, he said, people could not understand that there is no need for a bureaucracy to control restaurants; bad ones will fold just because they won't have any customers.

Many Eastern Europeans are pinning their hopes on foreign investment, particularly from the European Economic Community (EEC), to revitalise their economies, and they have called on

experts like Butler to help them learn how to make their economies more attractive to Western businesses. But, says the policy analyst, that is not the ultimate answer. "Eastern Europe has tremendous potential and these countries look upon foreign investment as their salvation, but I don't know any country in the world that has developed on that basis. The only way is to create wealth domestically. We tell them they have most of the tools at their disposal to create their own wealth and lift themselves out and it's a surprise to them."

Eastern Europe has a long way to go before investors are satisfied that reforms are effective enough to guarantee financial returns. "Business people contact me, but they have no idea what they're getting into, they just see new markets opening up," Seay explained. "They see Eastern Europe and the USSR — 400 million people — and automatically see 400 million customers."

Added Butler, people with experience in dealing with markets in the developing world are very unlikely to suddenly turn away from Africa and Asia. "They simply won't ditch all their experience and contacts to throw their dice into Eastern Europe," he said, noting that initially the East bloc will attract mostly "fly-by-night entrepreneurs looking for quick returns."

Clearly Eastern Europe is looking to the EEC as the key to the future. "They all want to get into Europe (the EC) before it closes up," Seay said. "They all seem to fear that the walls are going to go up and that they will be shut out. The northern tier countries — Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland — want to join the EC as soon as their economies will allow. The quest is emotional as well as practical. It's Europe, something they want to be intricately connected with and never again separated from. In a sense, people feel they are reclaiming their birthright."

The future structure of the EEC is a topic of hot debate within the EEC itself. Whatever form a new

community takes, membership for the Eastern European countries will almost certainly require a preliminary period of loose association. In the meantime, according to Butler, the days are numbered for the East bloc's own trade association, COMECON.

"It is Western Europe that is going to have to start thinking how it is going to deal with these countries," he added. The EEC has already taken one major step towards helping its Eastern neighbours. In mid-January the 12 EC members, plus 14 other developed nations, including the U.S. and Japan, and 8 Eastern European states met to set up the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (known by its French acronym, BERD) to help build a private sector in Eastern Europe. BERD will make loans to countries that are moving towards both a market economy and a multiparty political system.

The two experts at the Heritage Foundation had mixed feelings about the need for the BERD. "Britain and the U.S. want the bank to lend exclusively to the private sector, while France and other countries want to include loans to governments who claim that investments in infrastructure will be necessary," Seay said, recalling the failed policy of the 1970s, when the West collectively sank more than U.S. \$80 billion into Eastern Europe; the money went to waste and those countries were saddled with unserviceable foreign debt.

Butler expressed strong reserve on principle: "Any device of this nature has all the dangers of the large scale foreign aid bodies. They are used to prop up policies that may need to be cleared away... If you're getting plenty of foreign money and funding, it becomes easier not to make painful choices."

Concluded Seay: "It is a mixed blessing. It could be more damaging to certain countries than doing thing, especially if it becomes politicised and is used to reward friends and punish enemies." — World News Link.

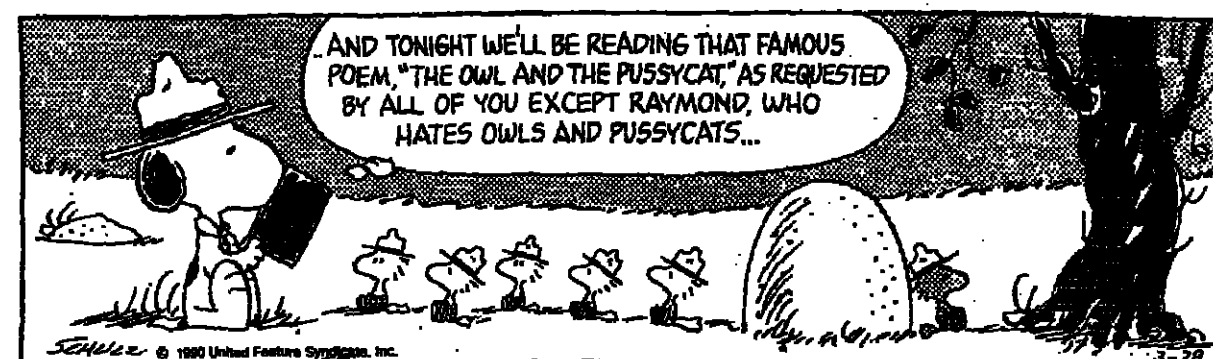
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



LETTERS

Name their capital

To the Editor

REFERENCE to your front page article of March 26 "Upper House members lash out at American Senate resolution", couldn't Jordan's Senate retaliate by, for example, recognising Moscow (Idaho), Paris (Texas) or better yet, Cairo (Illinois) as the capital of the United States? Doesn't this follow the logic of the American Senate's interference in the affairs of the Arab people?

B.O. Fletcher
P.O. Box 9446
Amman.

LA SEMAINE...

de Sulaiman Sweiss

Quel soutien aux Palestiniens?

Il y a deux jours, le peuple palestinien a célébré la Journée de la Terre. A cette occasion, des affrontements sanglants ont opposé les habitants des territoires occupés à l'armée israélienne. Dramatique et habituel, ce scénario ne cesse de confirmer le profond attachement des Palestiniens à leur terre et à leur identité nationale indépendante.

Depuis bientôt 28 mois, ces derniers mènent leur insurrection (Intifada) contre l'occupation israélienne avec beaucoup de courage et de nombreux sacrifices. En coordination avec la Direction Unifiée du soulèvement, l'OLP a parallèlement offert tous les signes nécessaires de modération et de réalisme. Elle a proposé un plan de paix et, dernièrement, elle a accepté d'ouvrir le dialogue avec le gouvernement israélien comme première étape d'une conférence internationale de paix sur le Proche-Orient.

Récemment, le cabinet d'union nationale de Tel Aviv est tombé sous l'effet des divergences apparues entre le Likoud et le Parti travailliste, à propos justement de la politique à suivre face à la détermination du peuple palestinien. Preuve, que malgré une conjoncture générale plutôt défavorable, la détermination des Palestiniens finit par agir sur l'occupant.

L'Intifada est également parvenue à gagner une partie de plus en plus importante de l'opinion publique internationale à la juste cause du peuple de Palestine. Une meilleure compréhension de la politique de l'OLP s'est faite jour dans les milieux politiques en Europe et même en Amérique, accompagnée le plus souvent par des condamnations plus ou moins fermes des pratiques israéliennes.

Les rues de plusieurs capitales ont connu des manifestations et d'autres démonstrations de solidarité avec les Palestiniens. Les principaux groupements régionaux de par le monde adoptent peu à peu des politiques de soutien à l'action de l'OLP. Bref: de plus en plus de pays et de peuples sympathisent, globalement, avec la cause palestinienne, que ce soit moralement, diplomatiquement, sinon, dans certains cas, matériellement.

Le maillon faible dans la lutte palestinienne a toujours été et reste aujourd'hui le monde arabe. Le soutien des nations de la région s'est le plus souvent maintenu dans des déclarations d'intention. Qu'il s'agisse des gouvernements ou des peuples. Même les décisions (relatives notamment à l'assistance financière à l'Intifada) prises par les chefs d'Etat arabes, il y a deux ans à Alger, n'ont pas été respectées. Le Fonds national palestinien, a d'ailleurs récemment relevé, que le soutien des pays arabes à l'OLP demeure bien maigre.

En Jordanie, le Comité populaire de soutien à l'Intifada a collecté 1.359.628 dinars en 1988 et 1.108.410 en 1989. Mais tout se passe chez nous comme si nous n'avions de notre solidarité qu'une conception financière. Pire encore: nous donnons l'impression que l'Intifada se déroule à 2.000 kilomètres de nos frontières.

Il y a un an, j'ai rencontré un journaliste étranger, de passage à Amman pour la première fois. Il s'est étonné d'y voir des villas luxueuses et des marchés bien achalandés. Il m'a fait part de sa surprise et de l'incrédulité qui en résultait quant à l'état de guerre entre la Jordanie et un voisin belliqueux distant de moins de 60 kilomètres.

L'évolution de la situation des Palestiniens dépend beaucoup de la volonté des Etats arabes de passer à l'action. Mais rien ne bouge. Du coup, le seul espoir, qui dissipe partiellement l'amertume des habitants des territoires, reste la démocratisation progressive des régimes arabes. Elle pourrait en effet amener les gouvernements, pressés par leurs populations, à mettre en pratique leurs slogans "arabistes" en faveur des "frères" de Palestine.

«Le meilleur soutien réel, qui nous est parvenu du monde arabe depuis le début de l'Intifada, réside dans les changements démocratiques en cours en Jordanie», écrivait il y a quelques mois un intellectuel palestinien dans une revue arabe de Jérusalem. Espérons que la semaine de soutien au soulèvement, qui s'est achevée le 28 mars dans le royaume, lui donnera raison.



Plusieurs milliers d'enfants maltraités en Jordanie

Des sévices pratiqués au nom de l'intérêt social

Plus de 3.580 enfants ont été victimes d'abus physiques et sexuels en Jordanie entre 1983 et 1988. Les traitements inhumains qu'ils subissent vont des coups violents au meurtre, en passant par le viol, les

Dans les rues et sur les routes, près des mosquées et autour des tas d'ordures, s'étale un spectacle quotidien: celui des enfants abandonnés qui ne reculent devant rien pour survivre. Négligés par la société, ils ne sont pourtant et malheureusement pas les seuls à être malmenés dans le royaume.

Il arrive en effet que les abus, dont sont victimes les enfants, se révèlent pires dans une atmosphère familiale. Dans ce cas, ce sont les parents ou d'autres membres de la famille, qui se retrouvent à l'origine de la délinquance et de la délinquance des jeunes.

D'après ses recherches consacrées à ce phénomène, Hind Khloqi, une enseignante du collège de la princesse Alia, estime à 3580 le nombre de cas d'abus pratiqués à l'encontre d'enfants entre 1983 et 1988. 432 cas, selon elle, concernant des sévices sexuels.

Constat surprenant, il n'existe aucune définition de ce type d'abus dans la législation jordanienne. Chaque famille ou individu s'en remet donc à ses propres convictions personnelles dès qu'il est question du traitement à réserver aux "petits d'homme". Certains croient ainsi avoir un droit et une liberté totale de les dominer et de les maltraiter.

«Pas de distinction entre discipline et torture»

Si on leur demande les raisons d'un tel comportement, la réponse des parents est automatique: «c'est mon enfant. Je dépense beaucoup d'argent pour lui et j'ai le droit de l'élever comme je veux».

«Dans notre société, le terme "abus" n'est pas encore reconnu. Et souvent, il n'y a pas de distinction entre discipline et torture», explique Sabri Rbeihat, major au Département de la sécurité publique (PSD-police nationale).

«Frapper un enfant, par exemple, reste considéré comme l'un des principes de base d'une bonne éducation, poursuit-il. Les parents estiment que c'est le plus sûr moyen de se faire obéir». Rares sont ceux qui imaginent les conséquences des coups, qui peuvent influencer radicalement le développement psychologique de leur progéniture.

C'est ainsi que sont exercés de nombreux abus, en toute impunité, faute de loi. Une lacune particulièrement grave, quand on sait jusqu'où peuvent aller certains adultes dans leurs pratiques inhumaines à l'encontre des mineurs. Depuis les nouveaux nés jusqu'aux adolescents de 18 ans.

Une jeune mère, F.H., a ainsi enterré vivante sa fille juste après avoir accouché. Pourquoi? Parce que son mari venait de lui prendre toutes ses économies pour se marier avec une autre, en la laissant, sans le sou, avec ses six enfants. F.H., désespérée, a considéré que pour sa fille, la mort était préférable à une vie de misère.

La justice jordanienne s'est également retrouvée face au cas de



Enfants exploités dans le travail ou abandonnés à eux-mêmes: la Jordanie manque d'institutions pour les accueillir.

A.D., qui venait de tuer son mari, et voulait aussi se débarrasser de son père. A.D. a expliqué son acte en révélant aux juges son horrible calvaire: son père l'avait violée à l'âge de 9 ans puis forcée à épouser un homme, qui abusait d'elle sexuellement et l'obligeait à cocher avec ses amis.

Dans une école de Madaba, c'est une institutrice, qui remarque l'absence constante d'une de ses élèves. Quand la fille revient en classe, l'enseignante note que son visage est couvert de contusions et d'hématomes. Questionnée, l'enfant avoue que ses parents la frappent dès qu'elle demande quelque chose à manger. A la maison, elle n'a droit qu'à un petit déjeuner tous les deux jours.

Si elle constitue un facteur majeur dans les cas d'enfants maltraités et exploités, la pauvreté n'est pas à l'origine de tous les abus. Il arrive souvent en effet, que ces comportements interviennent sur fond de problèmes familiaux, et particulièrement sur fond de mésentente entre époux.

Ainsi cette mère battant constamment sa fille parce que son mari la frappe dès qu'elle dépense un peu de son salaire.

«Il y a aussi des parents qui violentent leurs enfants, parce qu'ils l'ont été eux-mêmes pendant leur enfance», souligne par ailleurs Hind Khloqi. Dans d'autres cas, c'est la nature exubérante de l'enfant, qui provoque leur exaspération.

Selon elle, c'est ce qui arrive notamment aux bambins trop loquaces ou très indépendants. «Les pères et les mères, plutôt nerveux et faibles de caractère n'arrivent pas à assurer autrement leur autorité sur ce type d'enfants». Autres victimes désignées: les enfants malades ou handicapés, que les parents ne protègent pas, faute d'argent, de patience... sinon d'amour.

Les conventions sociales et les traditions usées du système tribal engendrent d'autres abus, liés notamment à la sexualité. En péchant en premier lieu les jeunes filles. Car les familles donnent une importance énorme à «l'honneur». Une enfant ou une adolescente, sinon une jeune femme encore célibataire, est condamnée à mort par la famille si elle a une relation sexuelle,

brûlure... Autant de sévices pratiqués par les parents eux-mêmes et considérés comme un droit légitime, au sein d'une société patriarcale et en l'absence de toute législation dans ce domaine.



Enfants exploités dans le travail ou abandonnés à eux-mêmes: la Jordanie manque d'institutions pour les accueillir.

volontaire ou forcée avec un étranger. Traditionnellement, la «sentence» est exécutée par le père, qui lave son nom par le sang.

«La vengeance et les représailles couvrent beaucoup de mauvais traitements», confirme le major Sabri Rbeihat, selon lequel ces pratiques doivent absolument céder le pas à «des processus de réhabilitation et de réintégration». Malheureusement, il n'existe encore aucune institution en Jordanie, capable remplir cette tâche et de s'occuper des enfants maltraités. Exception faite du

«Village des Enfants» de l'association humanitaire SOS Children (Voir encadré), dont la fonction se limite cependant à l'accueil des petits orphelins.

Reste un seul espoir: la Convention des Droits de l'Enfant, adoptée par l'ONU en novembre dernier, et destinée à protéger les mineurs de tous les abus, de la négligence et de l'exploitation par les adultes. Le royaume hachémite étudie actuellement son éventuelle adhésion à cette charte mondiale.

Saada Kilani.

SOS Children

Un village pour orphelin

Protéger les enfants orphelins des abus et de l'exploitation sociale: C'est la tâche du Village des Enfants de l'association SOS Children, qui leur procure depuis 4 ans une assistance psychologique, sociale et financière.

Au lendemain de la deuxième guerre mondiale, un médecin autrichien, Hermann Gemeiner, avait remarqué combien souffraient les nombreux enfants orphelins, abandonnés à eux-mêmes dans les rues, sans rien à manger. En 1949, il décida d'établir un véritable village pour ces jeunes et adolescents, où il pourrait leur venir en aide.

A l'instar de cette première «arche», installée au Tyrol, d'autres centres d'accueil allaient rapidement voir le jour. En 1990, le nombre des villages d'enfants, construits sur ce modèle dans le monde entier, s'élève à 260.

L'un d'eux s'est ouvert en Jordanie en mai 1986. Installé à Tabarbour, dans la banlieue est d'Amman, il a été inauguré un an plus tard par la reine Noor. Il comprend aujourd'hui neuf maisons, abritant chacune 7 à 10 enfants et une adulte, véritable «mère» du groupe.

L'organisation du village ne diffère guère de celle d'un hameau normal. Les besoins financiers, pédagogiques des petits habitants y sont assurés. Tout y est mis en œuvre pour fournir aux enfants une atmos-



phère familiale et sociale, propre à les aider à grandir.

«Les résultats scolaires de nos pensionnaires de nos pensionnaires nous incitent à penser que cette expérience est une réussite, estime Mohamed al-Shalaldeh, le directeur du village. Presque tous font de brillantes études et collectionnent les certificats de félicitations».

S. K.

EN BREF

Entretiens. Le roi Hussein s'est entretenu jeudi à Aqaba avec le secrétaire général des Nations-Unis, Javier Perez de Cuellar, qui avait entamé mardi une visite privée de quatre jours en Jordanie. Le souverain hachémite a notamment exprimé son «appréciation» pour le rôle de l'ONU et son «importance» dans le règlement des conflits dans le monde entier. Dimanche, le roi avait reçu à Amman le chef d'état-major de l'armée de l'air française, le général Jean Fleury. Aucune précision n'a été donnée sur la teneur de cet entretien. La Jordanie avait conclu en avril 1988 avec la France un contrat portant sur l'achat de 20 avions Mirage 2000.

Coordination. Yasser Abed Rabbo, chef du département de l'Information au sein du Comité exécutif de l'OLP, a demandé le week-end dernier à la Jordanie de permettre à la télévision nationale de «diffuser des programmes d'éducation destinés aux étudiants des universités des territoires occupés, fermées depuis trois ans». M. Abed Rabbo s'en est entretenu avec le ministre de l'Information, Ibrahim Izzedine, avec lequel il a également évoqué les moyens à mettre en œuvre pour améliorer «les programmes télévisés concernant le soutien à l'Intifada», destinés aux habitants de Cisjordanie et de Gaza.

CEE-Ligue. La «Troïka» européenne (France, Irlande et Italie) et le comité de la Ligue arabe sur l'Intifada, se réuniront mardi prochain, 3 avril, au Luxembourg. Devraient notamment participer à cette réunion le secrétaire général de la Ligue, Cheddi Kibbi et le chef du département politique de l'OLP, Farouk Kaddoumi. La France sera représentée par son secrétaire d'Etat chargé des relations culturelles internationales, Thierry de Beaulieu.

«Positifs». La suppression de l'octroi de permis de travail aux étrangers, au début du mois de février, par les autorités jordaniennes donne des «résultats positifs», a affirmé lundi le ministre du Travail. Selon le directeur de la section de l'Emploi, Mansour al-Outoum, cette mesure a permis d'embaucher 2.500 nationaux durant cette période. 100.000 Jordaniens, dont 50% sont titulaires de diplômes allant du tawjili à la licence, sont actuellement au chômage dans le pays, selon les chiffres officiels.

Tourisme. La Syrie et la Jordanie ont signé lundi à Damas un protocole d'accord touristique, appelant les agences de voyages mixtes ou privées des deux pays à organiser des programmes communs pour les visiteurs arabes et étrangers. Les ministres syrien et jordanien du Tourisme sont également convenus d'élaborer ensemble des publications, ainsi qu'un guide et un film présentant les régions des deux Etats. Par ailleurs, la compagnie aérienne chypriote Cyprus Airways a décidé mardi de reprendre ses vols à destination d'Amman, trois fois par semaine à partir du 3 juin. Ils avaient été interrompus en 1985 pour des raisons techniques.

Trafic. Deux des trois personnes inculpées mercredi de trafic d'armes depuis Londres vers l'Irak, un Libanais et un Irako-britannique, ont été placés en détention provisoire jusqu'au 5 avril, date à laquelle ils seront présentés devant un tribunal. La troisième personne, une Française, a été libérée sous caution et devra comparaître devant la justice le 10 mai. Tous trois sont inculpés d'infraction à la législation sur les exportations des armes pour avoir tenté de faire sortir illégalement du pays des composants de détonateurs nucléaires. Margaret Thatcher a qualifié cette affaire d'«incident très, très sérieux», tout en précisant qu'elle ne menace pas, dans l'immédiat du moins, les relations diplomatiques entre Londres et Bagdad.

Drame. Trois personnes sont mortes de rire hier à San Jiro dans le nord du Mexique, après avoir bu chacune un verre de la nouvelle production d'eau pétillante Perrier. Le Pdg de la célèbre marque française, Gustave Leven, est attendu aujourd'hui même sur place. Selon les premières analyses, effectuées par un laboratoire d'Etat à Mexico, des traces de gaz hilarant auraient été décelées dans plusieurs centaines de bouteilles, en vente à San Jiro. Cet accident risqué de porter un coup terrible à la firme, déjà sérieusement ébranlée en février par la découverte de benzène dans sa production exportée aux Etats-Unis («Le Jourdain» du 17 février).

Pauvres. La CEE va engager 55 millions d'écus (66 millions de dollars) au cours des quatre années à venir dans des projets d'aide à ses 44 millions de pauvres, a annoncé jeudi la Commission européenne. Cette dernière a sélectionné, au sein de la CEE, 39 projets locaux de lutte contre l'indigence, qui bénéficieront de subventions. Selon une estimation de la Commission, la Communauté (320 millions d'habitants) comptait un million de sans abri en 1988.

Visite. Le général Dmitri Iazov, ministre soviétique de la Défense, a déclaré mardi à Paris au sujet de la situation en Lituanie, qu'il portait «de l'idée que tout sera réglé par la voie pacifique». Interrogé à l'issue d'un entretien de 45 minutes avec le premier ministre français Michel Rocard, M. Iazov a affirmé qu'il n'y a aucune action armée sur le territoire de Lituanie. Le ministre soviétique a quitté Paris vendredi après avoir été également reçu par son homologue français Jean-Pierre Chevènement.

Académie. Le philosophe Michel Serre, 59 ans, a été élu jeudi à l'Académie française, prestigieuse institution culturelle de l'Hexagone. 681e membre de l'Académie, Michel Serre occupe le fauteuil d'Edgar Faure, ancien chef du gouvernement, décédé en mars 1988. Mathématicien, historien des sciences et agrégé de philosophie, Michel Serre enseigne la philosophie à Paris et à l'université de Stanford aux Etats-Unis.

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Oscars
Honneur
à
Jessica Tandy
La 62ème édition des Oscars de l'académie du cinéma américain, qui s'est déroulée mardi soir à Los Angeles a mis à l'honneur une grande dame du théâtre anglosaxon: l'actrice londonienne Jessica Tandy, qui à presque 81 ans s'est vue remettre l'Oscar de la meilleure actrice pour son rôle dans «Driving Miss Daisy». Elle y incarne une vieille dame juive américaine se liant d'amitié avec son nouveau chauffeur noir. Le long-métrage de Bruce Beresford a par ailleurs raflé trois autres récompenses, dont l'Oscar tant convoité de meilleur film de l'année.
L'Oscar du meilleur acteur est revenu à l'Anglais Daniel Day-Lewis, 32 ans, peintre et écrivain dans le film de l'Irlandais Jim Sheridan «My Left Foot». Décroché donc pour le favori, Tom Cruise, nommé pour son interprétation d'un ancien combattant du Vietnam dans «Born on the Fourth of July». Le film n'a obtenu que deux Oscars, dont celui de meilleur réalisateur pour Oliver Stone.
Cinéma africain. Le premier prix des 4èmes rencontres du cinéma africain de Khouriba (Maroc), est revenu dimanche dernier au Tunisien Nouri Bouzid, réalisateur des «Sabots en or». Le film avait été officiellement sélectionné au festival de Cannes 1989.

Vol à voile au dessus de l'aéroport de Marqa

Pour ceux qui aiment planer

Depuis près de trois ans, les fous de planeurs trouvent en Jordanie les moyens d'assouvir leur penchant pour les airs. Grâce au club royal de vol à voile, né en juillet 1987.



Il suffit de quelques dizaines de mètres aux planeurs, lancés au sol, pour décoller.

J'en rêvais depuis l'âge de 3 ans. Dès que le club a ouvert ses portes en juillet 1987, j'ai pris mes premières leçons. Aujourd'hui, je compte 40 vols. La quarantaine, Safouh Abu Taha est à l'image de la plupart des membres du Club royal de vol à voile (CRVV): heureux et plutôt fier d'assouvir sa passion des airs.

Une passion, qui mène ce directeur de cabinet d'audit bancaire, le plus souvent flanqué d'une paire d'amis, presque tous les jeudis après-midi et les vendredis sur les pistes de l'aéroport militaire de Marqa, à l'est d'Amman. «On y passe des heures entières, jusqu'au crépuscule», assure-t-il. Et ce, pour quitter, nue, deux ou trois fois par semaine, le plancher des vaches et planer entre vingt minutes et une heure dans le ciel de la capitale.

«Avant, nous devions aller en Europe», souligne Munqeth Mehyar, autre membre du vol à voile. Architecte de formation, il avait acquis un brevet de pilote d'appareils motorisés aux Etats-Unis. Renvoyé au pays au début des années 1980, il n'hésitait pas à dépenser des fortunes pour s'offrir quelques heures d'émotion

forte. Depuis trois ans, ses dépenses se retrouvent considérablement réduites. «L'inscription initiale au club coûte environ 220 dinars. Elle se limite ensuite à 40 dinars par an, précise Talat Malkawi, instructeur et numéro deux du club. Et puis, nous pratiquons des réductions de 50% pour les étudiants».

Comparé aux prix des aéroclubs européens, le CRVV mérite bien la réputation de «club pour tous», que tentent de lui donner ses responsables. Mais il reste cher pour une majorité de Jordaniens moyens. «Nous avons pourtant des origines socio-professionnelles très variées, soutient Munqeth Mehyar. C'est d'ailleurs la réussite la plus satisfaisante».

L'autre, à l'en croire, est la présence, non négligeable, des femmes parmi les membres du club. «Elles représentent environ 20% de nos effectifs, précise Talat Malkawi. Mais aucune d'elles n'a encore décroché de brevet pour voler en solo». Ainsi de Dina Gaimoukha. Jeune ingénieure électronique, elle fut l'une des toutes premières à s'inscrire en 1988. Une démarche d'ailleurs peu aisée. «Il nous faut plus de

courage qu'aux hommes pour pratiquer un sport aérien, tellement les pressions sociales sont fortes, assure-t-elle. Quand j'ai commencé, ma famille s'est étonnée sinon fâchée».

Malgré l'engouement grandissant des Jordaniens et des étrangers pour le vol à voile, le CRVV fait face à de sérieux problèmes financiers. «Nous avons 8 planeurs, depuis l'ouverture du club. Il faut les entretenir», remarque Talat Malkawi. En 1989, le CRVV n'a ainsi pu équilibrer ses comptes que grâce au coup de ponce financier de l'Armée de l'air et de la Royal Jordanian, toutes deux membres du bureau directeur de l'association.

Autre difficulté, d'ordre technique celle-ci: un bout de ciel réduit à un mouchoir de poche, espace aérien militaire obligé. D'où l'utilisation d'un tractage par câble au sol pour faire décoller les appareils. «C'est amplement suffisant», estime Munqeth Mehyar. D'autres regrettent cependant d'avoir toujours à se promener au-dessus des mêmes quartiers et rêvent de créer leur propre aéroport.

Alain Renon.

Palestine

Marche pacifique en Jordanie en mai-juin

Les acteurs Gregory Peck, Vanessa Redgrave et Woody Allen participeront à une marche pacifique dans la vallée du Jourdain en mai-juin, ont indiqué le week-end dernier à Amman les représentants en Jordanie du Comité américano-arabe de lutte contre la discrimination (ADC). Le docteur Mamdouh al-Abbadi, président de l'Ordre des médecins jordaniens et membre de l'ADC, a précisé qu'outre les trois comédiens, 160 responsables de syndicats arabes devraient se mêler aux quelques centaines de manifestants attendus.

Toujours selon lui, le premier ministre, Moudar Badrane a d'ores et déjà donné son autorisation pour cette marche, qui permettra «d'attirer l'attention de l'opinion publique internationale sur la situation dans les territoires occupés par Israël», a ajouté le Dr al-Abbadi.

Les manifestants emprunteront une route en direction du pont al-Husseini, principal point de passage entre le royaume hachémite et la Cisjordanie. Long de 50 mètres, il est contrôlé à l'est par l'armée jordanienne et à l'ouest par les troupes de Tsahal.

Mamdouh al-Abbadi a enfin annoncé que cette marche serait précédée le 12 mai d'un rassemblement à Amman, en protestation contre l'immigration massive des juifs soviétiques vers l'Etat hébreu.

Alain Renon.

Voler entre 3.000 et 5.500 km/h

Un Super Concorde à l'horizon

Concorde vieillit doucement, transportant quotidiennement les passagers d'Air France au-dessus de l'Atlantique à quelque 2.200 km/h. Ses constructeurs se préoccupent aujourd'hui de lui donner un successeur.

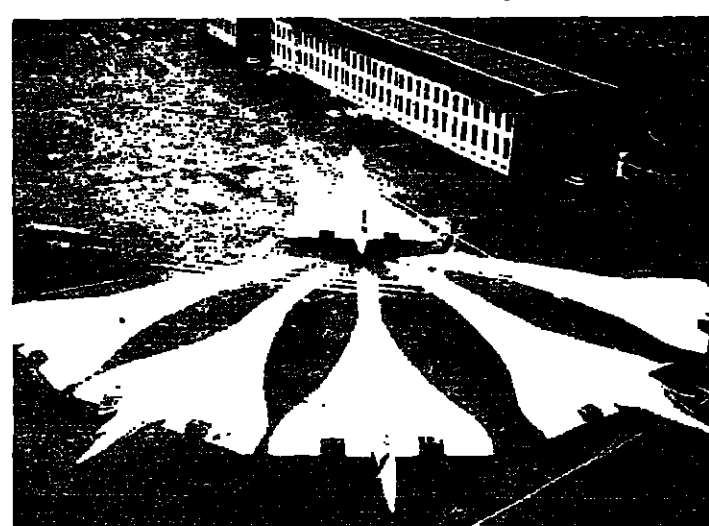
Le supersonique Concorde a un avenir. En témoignent les quelque 14 millions de francs (environ 2,5 millions de dollars) que le ministère français de la Recherche et de la Technologie vient de donner à l'Aérospatiale et à la SNECMA, principaux constructeurs aéronautiques du pays, pour qu'ils affinent leur conception de son successeur. Un Super Concorde, qui, pour l'instant, n'a pas encore quitté le stade des planches à dessin et des simulations par ordinateur.

Et pour cause: avant de crier victoire, les chercheurs doivent en effet arriver à maîtriser les redoutables contraintes qui pèsent sur le futur supersonique. Et d'abord la chaleur. A 2.200 km/h (Mach 2), la surface extérieure du Concorde atteint déjà les 130 degrés centigrades. Le nouvel appareil devant voler à plus de 3.000 km/h, il leur faut mettre au

jets. Le premier a été baptisé «avion de transport supersonique du futur» (ATSF). Dérivé du Concorde, il pourrait emporter 300 personnes à 3.000 km/h, à 20.000 mètres d'altitude, sur des distances de 10.000 kilomètres.

Rapporté au nombre de places disponibles, son coût d'exploitation serait inférieur de 55% à celui de son prédécesseur. Son prix de vente s'élèverait à 1,5 milliard de francs (plus de 250 millions de dollars), soit le double d'un Boeing 747, le plus grand avion commercial. L'ATSF pourrait entrer en service entre 2010 et 2015.

Le deuxième projet est carrément futuriste. «L'Avion à grande vitesse» (AGV) transporterait, vers l'an 2029, jusqu'à 150 passagers à Mach 5, soit 5.500 km/h sur des distances de 12.000 kilomètres, à 30.000 mètres d'altitude. Son prix est actuellement



point de alliages de métaux et des matériaux composites capables de résister à des températures comprises entre 250 et... 700 degrés!

Il est indispensable, d'autre part, de limiter les nuisances sonores du Super Concorde. Il faut donc arriver à réduire l'injection de gaz au décollage sans ralentir la vitesse de l'avion. Autre gageure: la suppression de l'air par le supersonique provoque le célèbre et désagréable «bang» dans un couloir de 100 km de large sous sa trajectoire. Les ingénieurs s'efforcent de le contenir en redessinant le nez et les ailes de l'appareil pour lui permettre le survol des terres à grande vitesse.

Fort de l'expérience du Concorde, qu'elle a conçu et qui depuis 1976 a transporté plus de 2,5 millions de passagers, l'Aérospatiale étudie deux pro-

incalculable... ou inavouable, car il nécessiterait des matériaux et des moteurs proches de ceux des fusées spatiales.

L'ATSF semble, pour l'instant, le projet le plus réaliste. D'autant que les Américains Boeing et McDonnell Douglas, la Britannique British Aerospace, l'Allemand MBB, ainsi que le Japonais Mitsubishi creusent eux aussi le problème. D'ailleurs, les principaux constructeurs mondiaux n'auront vraisemblablement pas d'autre choix que de s'associer.

Les coûts de développement du Super Concorde s'annoncent en effet astronomiques. Sans coopération internationale, il est peu probable que Paris se retrouve un jour à quatre ou cinq heures de vol... de Paris.

Alain Faujas.

A L'AFFICHE

FOCUS

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Guity, le fantaisiste

Il est beaucoup question d'histoire en avril dans les programmes du centre culturel français. Le cinéma n'est pas en reste, puisque c'est un cycle Sacha Guity qui nous est proposé.

Auteur, acteur et réalisateur, Sacha Guity a jalonné son immense production de petites histoires, d'anecdotes et de bons mots. Il les attribuait volontiers aux grands personnages historiques. Mais ils naissaient le plus souvent de sa fantaisie et de sa mégalomanie.

Avec «Si Versailles m'était conté», réalisé en 1953, Sacha Guity s'en donne à cœur joie: il fait défiler rien moins que 83 vedettes dans une succession de scénettes, qui racontent la vie à la cour de Louis XIV, puis sous la Révolution de 1789. La séquence au cours de laquelle la chanteuse Edith Piaf entonne le «Ca ira, ça ira» sur les grilles du Palais est d'ailleurs restée très célèbre.

A sa sortie, le film est réapparu par la critique unanime.

F. M.

CONFERENCES

Urbanisme. Professeur de géographie à l'université de Tours et directeur du Laboratoire Urbanisation du Monde Arabe (URBAMA), le chercheur français Pierre Signoles participe à un séminaire de recherche organisé par le Centre d'études et de recherches sur le Moyen-Orient contemporain (CERMOC) à Amman, sur le thème des «armatures urbaines dans le monde arabe».

Bibliothèque du CERMOC, mardi 3 avril à 17h00 (tel: 641769) et centre culturel français, mercredi 4 à 20h30 (en français).

EXPOSITIONS

Peinture. La Fondation Shoman présente les œuvres de sept peintres irakiens: Shaker Hassan al-Sa'idi; Salim al-Dabagh; Rafi al-Nassiri; Sa'adi al-Ka'bi; Ali Taleb; Mohammad Mahrudin et Ismail Fatah.

Centre culturel et scientifique de la Fondation Shoman (Sinnelmann), jusqu'au 4 avril. L'exposition est ouverte tous les jours, sauf le vendredi, de 10h00 à 17h00. Entrée libre.

Peinture. Le peintre palestinien Ahmad Nawash expose une vingtaine de toiles au centre culturel français. Douleur de l'exil. CCF, jusqu'au 8 avril. Entrée libre.

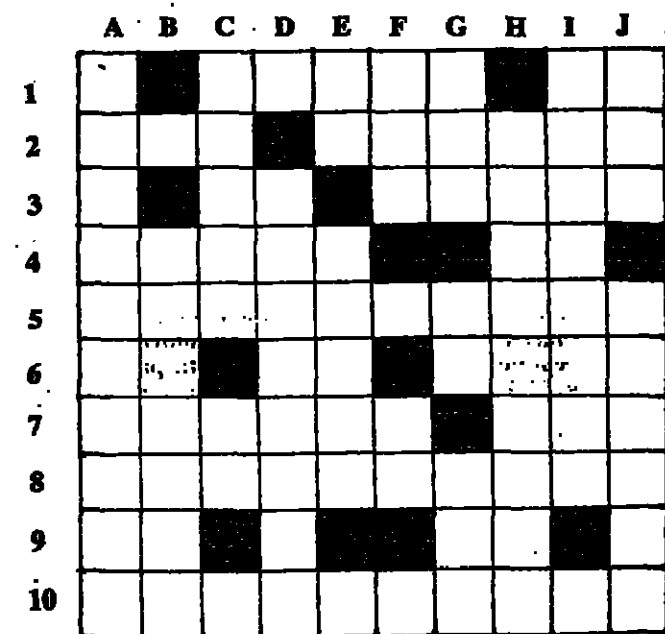
Peinture. Né à Jérusalem en 1954, Esam Tantawi fait partie des artistes les plus en vue en Jordanie. Il signe une œuvre originale, dans laquelle se mêlent à l'inspiration ses expériences de graphiste et de photographe.

Galerie d'art Alia (premier cercle, Djebel Amman), de 9h00 à 13h30 et de 15h00 à 18h00. Dernier jour. Entrée libre. Tél: 639303.

JEUX

Mots croisés

Par Florence Mouton



Horizontalement.

1: Elles servent à faire le café. 2: ils bordent les vêtements. 3: inclut ou exclut; carte maîtresse. 4: grosses montres. 5: résister; lettre grecque. 6: infinitif; négation. 7: change de vol... ou de peau; pronom personnel indéfini; on le qualifie parfois d'indien. 8: caillou. 9: isolée. 10: essayée; l'un des points cardinaux.

(Solution la semaine prochaine)

Verticalement.

A: félicitation. B: préposition; note. C: climats. D: éviter; forme d'être. E: pronom personnel; article indéfini; rivière du bassin parisien. F: habitants de la Botte. G: aller en justice; reste à payer. H: composent le squelette; d'autant plus précieuse qu'elle est rare. I: choisis; pour les chiens. J: ancienne unité de mesure; fait la liaison.

Solution de la grille N. 3:

Horizontalement. 1: amusements. 2: Pan; Néron. 3: prises; ite. 4: Anvers. 5: ré; végété. 6: rue; rat. 7: tes; taie. 8: finière. 9: ton; tes. 10: ment; es.

Verticalement.

A: apparition. B: Marne; et. C: université. D: ne; non. E: encrement. F: messes. G: er; titre. H: noisiers. I: TNT; taire. J: étetés.

CINEMA

TELEVISION

DIMANCHE

«Si Versailles m'était conté», de Sacha Guity. avec Sacha Guity, Jean-Pierre Aumont, Orson Welles, Gaby Morlay, Edith Piaf... (1953). Premier film coloré de Sacha Guity pour une fresque qui raconte la vie à Versailles sous Louis XIV puis sous la Révolution.

Centre culturel français, lundi 2 avril à 20h30 (non-déjà en arabe). Entrée libre. Cycle Guity (voir FOCUS).

Ciné-club. Durant le mois de Ramadan, un seul long métrage quotidien à 20h30. Au programme de cette semaine: sept comédies britanniques.

Dimanche 1er avril: «Carry on up in the Jungle», de Gerald Thomas, avec Bob Monkhouse, Kenneth Williams et Shirley Eaton (1967). Targan, vu sous un autre angle. Moins héroïque et tellement plus maladroite...

Lundi 2: «Time Bandits», de Terry Gilliam, avec les Monty Python et Sean Connery (1982). Imaginez un gamin, découvrant un passage capable de le mener dans le passé. Ajoutez une bande de malfrats, qui s'engouffrent avec lui et débordent ce qu'elle peut à chaque période qu'elle traverse. Butin et film cocasses assurés.

Mardi 3: «O, Lucky Man!», de Lindsay Anderson, avec Malcolm McDowell, Arthur Lowe et Ralph Richardson (1973). L'odyssée d'un homme d'affaires aux dents longues, qui après une carrière de financier sans scrupule se sent pousser des ailes d'ange. Péripéties d'une tentative de rédemption.

Mercredi 4: «The Four Musketeers», de Richard Lester, avec Michael York, Oliver Reed, Richard Chamberlain, Raquel Welch et Faye Dunaway (1974). Une distribution éponatouillante pour la dernière bataille que les quatre mousquetaires décident de livrer au vilain Rochefort.

Jeudi 5: «Carry on Cowboy», de Gerald Thomas, avec Bob Monkhouse, William Hartnell et Kenneth Williams (1958). Western spaghetti mi-tarte à la crème. Une recette à tester.

Vendredi 6: «Monty Python and the Holy Grail», de Terry Gilliam, avec Terry Gilliam, Graham Chapman et John Cleese (1975). Quand le roi Arthur et les chevaliers de la Table Ronde se mettent en tête de conquérir le Sacré Graal. Anachronisme et humour noir. De très bons gags.

Samedi 7: «Meanin' of Life», de Terry Gilliam, avec les Monty Python (1983). La même équipe, se laissant aller à l'humour philosophique. La pente est savonnée, et les Monty Python sont lourds...

Films en version originale. Route de l'université de Jordanie, première à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem puis première à gauche.

MERCREDI

18h10 - La Valise en Carton, ou l'histoire romancée de la chanteuse d'origine portugaise Linda de Suza. 19h00 - Le Journal. 19h15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: magazine local réalisé et présenté par Saleh Madi.

JEUDI

18h10 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: jeu. 18h30 - Santé Vision: documentaire médical, consacré cette semaine à la rougeole. 19h00 - Le Journal. 19h15 - Brûlures: documentaire sur les soins d'urgence.

VENREDI

17h30 - «Les Camisards», de René Alliot, avec Philippe Clévenot et G. Debyar. Au moment de la révocation de l'Edit de Nantes par Louis XIV. 19h00 - Le Journal. 19h15 - Portraits: documentaire sur les femmes dans le monde du travail. Cette semaine: les maitrissières.

SAMEDI

18h00 - Cousteau à la redécouverte du monde: documentaire. 19h00 - Le Journal. 19h15 - Sauvage et Beau: documentaire.

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

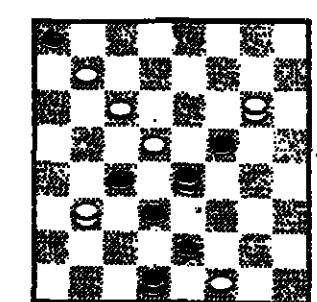
SAUVETAGE. Le Fonds mondial pour la nature (WWF) envisage la création dans les deux ans à venir d'un centre de reproduction des espèces rares ou considérées comme disparues de la faune sahélienne. Le parc pourrait être installé au Niger, auquel le projet sera soumis en octobre prochain. Parmi les animaux concernés figurent les oryx et les addax, pratiquement introuvables dans cette région depuis les années 1980 à cause de la chasse ou de la conquête de pâturages. Des couples seront fournis par des zoos américains et européens.

HECATOMBE. Cinquante huit mille cinq cents Soviétiques ont trouvé la mort dans des accidents de la route en 1989 et trois cent quarante six mille autres ont été blessés, ont indiqué les Izvestia il y a un peu plus d'une semaine à Moscou. Selon le quotidien du gouvernement, le nombre des tués a augmenté l'an dernier de 23,9% par rapport à 1988.

JOUER DU SIDA. Les écoliers et les lycéens de Copenhague, âgés de plus de 14 ans, peuvent depuis le 22 mars jouer en classe au «Jeu du sida» afin d'apprendre à mieux connaître cette maladie, ses conséquences dramatiques et surtout les moyens de s'en prévenir. Inventé par quatre instituteurs, ce nouveau jeu a été distribué gratuitement aux quelque 60 écoles et lycées de la capitale danoise. Il est également vendu à prix coûtant aux autres établissements du pays. Avec 549 cas de sida, dont 307 décès, enregistrés en février dernier, le Danemark arrive au quatrième rang des pays européens les plus touchés par le virus (proportionnellement au nombre d'habitants), derrière la France, la Suisse et l'Espagne.

DAMES

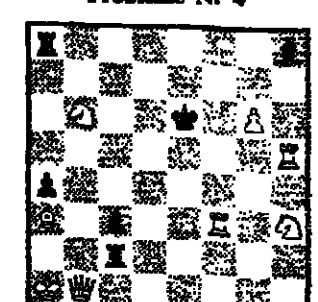
Problème N. 4:



Les blancs gagnent en cinq coups.

ECHECS

Problème N. 4



Mât avec les blancs en deux coups.

Solution du problème N. 3:

B. 4-8; N. 9-18; B. 19-14; N. 10-19; B. 3-6; N. 11-2; B. 17-3; N. 20-11; B. 13-6; N. 2-11; B. 8-6.

Solution du problème N. 3:

Ad4-f2.

The far side of the bridge

By Dr. Nancy S. Pyle

This is the first of a two-part article

My three days on the West Bank were a barrage of impressions, emotions, conversations, mental images. Throughout the intense chaos of my visit, I tried to make notes on scraps of paper, then stuffed randomly in my luggage. Regrettably, there was no time to write while I was there. But perhaps my notes will make more sense after a few days of reflection. To chronicle my every move would make terribly boring reading. What follows are a series of notes based on information and impressions I was able to collect. I preface all these remarks by making very clear the comments that follow reflect only the experience of one individual. I tried to get at least one additional confirmation of each story before including it here. I studiously avoided meeting with any political leaders. I wanted to listen to ordinary people trying to go about the natural patterns of activity of everyday life. I regret there was no time to visit Gaza and Nablus, nor did I have many opportunities to talk to Jewish Israelis. Obviously, this was only a first visit. It will not be my last.

WHEN I instructed the driver from the Inter Continental Hotel in Amman to take me to the Allenby Bridge, he politely replied, "No, Madam, I will drive you to the King Hussein Bridge." Perhaps just a small matter of semantics, but a telling detail for what lay ahead. For all the time I have spent in the Middle East, for all the courses I have taken and taught on Islamic art and architecture, it was incredible to realise I was finally heading to Jerusalem. It was a pilgrimage of sorts — historically, intellectually, and emotionally. For too long I had known Jerusalem and the West Bank only through the eyes of others. Now I was going to see it for myself.

The one-hour drive into the Jordan Valley took me from the modern landscape and crisp weather of Amman, down into a timeless scene awakening to the early signs of spring. But nomadic tent encampments and picnicking groups along streams dwindled as we approached the Jordan River crossing point. A no man's land of military installations and multiple check points announced the bridge must be near.

And suddenly we pulled up next to a small shack and several friendly Jordanian military types emerged to inspect my papers.

Thank you to friends in the office of Crown Prince Hassan in Amman, I had secured the precious official document that would allow me to enter Israel and later cross back into Jordan. Normally, traffic is only one way. My driver departed, the Jordanian soldier returned my passport, warning I wouldn't be allowed to return if I came back with any Israeli stamps on my papers, and waved me off with a smile. A Jordanian porter appeared out

of nowhere and grabbed my two duffel bags (having wisely left my large suitcase back in Amman) and quickly carried them to the middle of the bridge where he dropped them like hot potatoes. Miraculously, his Israeli counterpart was there in a second to pick them up and carry them to the other side. The distance is short, but the psychological impact was overwhelming. An Israeli soldier met me and demanded my passport. While crossing the bridge, I had tried surreptitiously to hide my regular passport with the visas of various Arab states and pull out my brand new second passport, valid only for Israel (and South Africa). It looked so new I think the Israelis were highly suspicious. Many officials were called in to inspect it before I was given permission to wait for the shuttle bus.

Guns and metal detectors

"No one walks into Israel. With terrifying guns aimed down on you from military outposts, you are shuttled to the immigration processing centre. Traffic was limited on this winter morning. Trundling into Jordan were trucks laden with oranges and stone slabs. Heading in the other direction, we were only four — an Indian now working in London, a couple from Madrid, and me. Palestinians living in Jordan and wishing to visit their families on the West Bank had crossed over much earlier, knowing full well that it would take most of the day to clear Israeli immigration. Our shuttle dropped us at the Tourist Hall (as opposed to the Arab Hall). We were treated in such a hostile manner that I cannot imagine what the Arabs were experiencing. As we exited the

bus, our luggage, including my purse, was grabbed and put on a trolley. A metal tag with a number was our receipt. We were shoved into a hall to go through a metal detector. It was not a pleasant feeling to see my purse with all my money, other passport, and file of West Bank contacts go in the opposite direction. The four of us huddled together, unconsciously adopting an "us against them" mentality. The Indian had come over before so he was our chief strategist. No Israeli guards spoke Spanish, so I became the translator for the terrified Spanish couple. We collectively resented the treatment which we could only assume was hostile simply because we had come from Jordan. However, one customs officer did his best to help us, explaining the routine and trying to introduce some reason to the whole process. But it is the security border guards who run the show and who are most intimidating. They were going through absolutely everything in everybody's luggage ahead of me in line. They absolutely freaked out over my laptop p.c. The security chap, young, arrogant and brash, ordered me to take the whole thing apart immediately. I tried to reason with him, turning it on to prove it wasn't a bomb, explaining it worked by recharging and showing my adapter, etc. The accommodating customs man suggested to the security fellow that he put it through an X-Ray. Not one mind you, he ran it through over ten times. By now I was really fuming. Friends in Amman had warned me I shouldn't bring it, but I concluded no one had the right to deny me the equipment necessary to do my work. No where else in the world had I ever encountered such hostility. By now the entire customs hall was watching the scene. More and more people joined my side, ganging up against the young soldier. He was exploding with fury, yelling at me that no computer could ever enter Israel without first being disassembled. I just stared at him and refused. It became a battle of two very stubborn people and I suspected I would win. How could he possibly justify his actions to a superior? And I was right... but he is my enemy now for life because I forced him to back down and lose face in front of an enormous crowd of people.

At last, my computer and I entered Israel. But not before having to pay an entry tax. The only positive note was that the security guard was so furious with me after his incident, that he wanted to get me out of there as fast as possible. He

didn't even bother to go through the rest of my stuff.

Feeling in the air

I tried to regain my composure during the one hour ride to Jerusalem. None of my Palestinian university hosts had been able to get permission to meet at the bridge, so I took a combination of bus and taxi just like all the Arab visitors. You could feel it in the air, this bonding of having survived the first round and ready and waiting for the next harassment. I came soon enough with the first of many check points and passport controls. It was beginning to dawn on me what it felt like not to have the basic right of freedom of travel.

The trip through Jericho and over the hills to Jerusalem was breathtaking. One can easily appreciate why so many want to claim this magnificent city as their own. Steeped in history, Jerusalem stands proudly on the hillside, welcoming pilgrims from all over the world, from Christianity, Judaism and Islam. The magnitude of their conflicting claims was just beginning to hit me. I entered in awe, hoping I would be able to keep a clear mind and an observant eye on the events and conversations of the days ahead.

The bus dropped us at what appeared to be some random point on the eastern outskirts of the city. I set off by foot with my bags in tow, ill-advised that my hotel was within easy walking distance. In the middle of the East Jerusalem I was approached by money changers and hawkers of all description. There are no physical markers for where East meets West, but even the first time visitor can soon sense where that invisible line is drawn. I knew my hotel was in the East and realised my steps were taking me toward the West. At last I gave up and found a taxi which took me to the American Colony Hotel.

The hotel is a little gem, an oasis of calm and dignity in an otherwise tortured landscape. Upon entering the stone floored lobby, you step back in time to an era when inhabitants were able to find a note of harmony in their daily existence. One meets no tourists at the American Colony. It is the hangout of journalists, European delegates, intellectuals and Palestinian policy makers. I longed for a scorecard to identify all the fascinating personalities doing business in the lobby. But soon, I felt welcomed and became an actor in the drama being played out

each day. This was the hub of the West Bank.

The candy dish

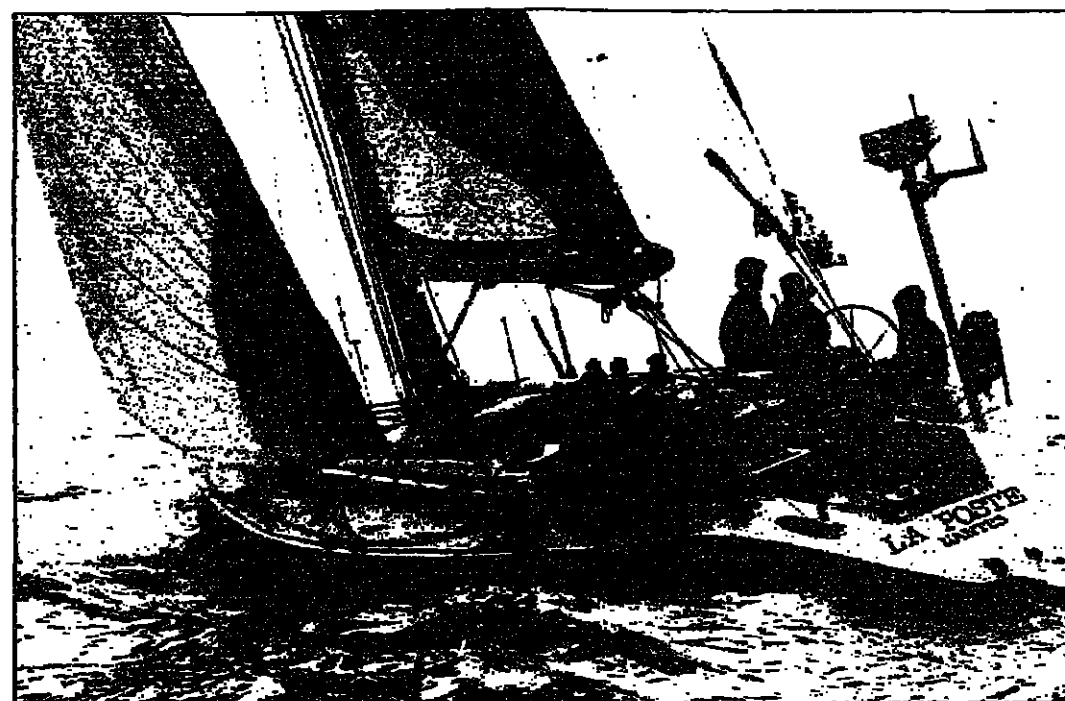
The director of the Makassed Hospital, the best Islamic medical facility on the West Bank, is a Missouri-trained urologist. Dr. Farouk Hussein impressed me as a man of unlimited compassion and rigorous training. Despite limited resources, the hospital opens its doors to any patient and offers a 200-bed facility with world class staff and somewhat less impressive equipment. The place was immaculate, the doctors taking extraordinary risks to be true to their Hippocratic oath. They were often called to the hospital for an emergency, knowing full well that they didn't have permission to travel and would have to take the chance of being arrested at a random check point. No one ever hesitates when the emergency call comes through.

A few of my most vivid memories from the hospital: Dr. Abdul Rahim keeps a covered candy dish on his desk in which he saves the plastic bullets, camouflaging 15 grammes of metal each, that are removed from patients less than 16 years of age. He was in the process of filling him third dish... In the intensive care ward I met a young girl just nine years old. Her leg had been blown off by a bomb and she was awaiting the fitting of a prosthesis. Her dignity was overpowering, her crime was that she was walking home from school at an inauspicious moment...

Lunch in the staff cafeteria was a rushed affair, not more than ten minutes. As one doctor remarked, "There is just too much to be done, we'll have a leisurely meal when our people are free."

The toughest moment of my visit was a conversation with two teenage boys who had been attacked by Israeli security forces and then taken to Israeli hospitals for care. Their families eventually realised they would die if left where they were and finally arranged a transfer to Makassed three days later. What kind of hospital care allows a patient to still have part of their brain protruding from a head wound, and the other such a deep infection in a leg wound that the Palestinian doctors had to amputate it?

Dr. Nancy S. Pyle is associate director of the Harvard Institute for International Development.



Whitbread

Whitbread 89 — surf with the post

By Sylvaine Luckx

THE POST OFFICE, which is one of the most important institutions in France with its 300,000 employees, has recently become involved in an original operation. On the initiative of one of its employees, Daniel Mallé, it is taking part in one of the toughest races in the world, the Whitbread race, with a boat it has sponsored.

The Whitbread, created by the Royal Naval Sailing Association (RNSA) is a race around the world with stopovers and a compulsory trip around the three capes: the Cape of Good Hope, Cape Leeuwin in Australia, and the most famous of all, Cape Horn.

The Whitbread race has taken place every year since 1973. A few French sailors distinguished themselves in it: Eugène Rigaudière who won the Cape Horn stretch of the race in 1981, Lionel Pécot with "L'Esprit d'Equipe", and Alain Gabbay who won the second stage in 1977 with his "Rotten Yellow Wreck" ("33 Export").

The Whitbread is a highly prestigious and very hard race. There were three deaths in the first edition in 1973. The stages are long: more than 11,200 kilometres in the "Roaring Forties", separate Punta del Este (in Uruguay) from Fremantle (in Australia) and the competitors are serious.

In addition to the other French participants, Alain Gabbay on "Charles Jourdan" and Patrick Tabary on "Esprit de Liberté", this year, "La Poste" has taken on the Swiss Pierre Fehmann on "Merit", the New-Zealander Peter Blake on "Steinlager" and a Soviet crew on "Golden

Fleece", sponsored by Pepsi-Cola. Tracy Edwards, a tiny woman cook on "Atlantique Privateer" in the 85-86 edition of the race, this time plays skipper to an exclusively female crew with a boat called "Maiden of Great Britain". Daniel Mallé is the captain of the "La Poste" boat. He joined the Post-Office, when in fact, he wanted to be a naval officer. He has always dreamed of "going on the water". His father was transferred to Nantes. He quickly became captain of the Post-Office Sports Association's (ASPTT) boat. "When at times, I returned to the sorting machine, I had lost the rhythm, but I gave my colleagues something to dream about. Three years later, I was seconded full time."

From regatta to regatta, he made a name for himself and, in 1984, won a victory, the Trade Winds Race. But he was obsessed by one thing: to sail around the world and go round Cape Horn. He had to convince a boat-builder to gain the interest of his superiors at the Post-Office.

In July 1987, he had managed with the Béateau shipbuilders, "LA Poste", a five-metre racing version of "First-51", designed by German Frers (the architect of the great sailors in the Admiral's Cup, and of "Flyer", winner of the Whitbread race in 1982) was built in Saint-Hilaire de Riez. Five metres is not very big for eight men on board for six months. "Steinlager" is eight metres long. The race is all the

harder for a small, necessarily slower boat. When they saw land, they repaired their boat and took off again. Barely time to breathe.

The Post Office allowed itself to be persuaded. It is the third largest public institution after the French Electricity Generating Board (EDF) and France Telecom, with a turnover of 63.7 billion francs in 1988. It stands among the top 15 French firms. What could be better promotion than the crew sailing around the world, for a publicity campaign based on dynamism and innovation? "Get ahead with the Post Office!" And what a fine opportunity to seal the morale of the troops! For the eight members of the crew were all post-office workers.

Human qualities counted more in the selection than real competence. 370 keen applicants presented themselves, including 30 women. Jean-Michel Foronnet, for instance, was put in charge of trimming the sails; Jean-Michel, the rugby-player, had not set foot on a boat since he capsized in Sète, and that was a few years ago.

"I want guys who are able to surpass themselves for the group... I want them to think of all those who would have liked to come, as I do, and of the 300,000 post-office workers who must be proud of us." "Force 8", an in-house magazine was created for "La Poste".

Over 1,200 post-office workers went to Southampton to see their team off. "Put ten Englishmen in a boat and you have a crew. Put ten Frenchmen in a boat and you have ten Frenchmen," an old saying goes. But what about ten post-office workers? — L'Actualité en France

In Calcutta, some call him God

By Pratik Kanjilal

CALCUTTA — Doctor Jack. That's how he is known to the poor of Calcutta. They also refer to him as God. But Dr. Jack Preger, 59, smilingly disowns his godhood. "This (West Bengal) is a Marxist state," he says, tongue firmly in cheek. "And these people probably can't find anyone else to worship."

But Jack, as he likes to be called, has certainly made himself worthy of worship. His list of patients runs to 18,000 and whole families may be included under a single name, pushing the number up to a possible 60,000. Most are beggars, tramps, landless peasants or pavement dwellers, the poorest of the poor. Preger gives them free treatment, food and clothing and often pays their travel expenses to the clinic and even their rent. For the past 15 years, in this city of Mother Theresa, he has been the patron saint of the denied and the dispossessed, his two roadside clinics an alternative to the Nobel laureate's homes for the dying destitute.

But unlike Mother Theresa, he is little known outside Calcutta, or even in Calcutta. His own work, as he puts it, is only a tiny drop in this vast city's ocean of poverty and, until recently, his main clinic functioned from the pavement on Middleton Row, a quiet, unpretentious street in downtown Calcutta. But word spread quickly among the desperately poor. Patients come to him from as far away as the Sunderbans, a dense, tiger-infested forest located where the Hooghly River empties into the Bay of Bengal. "Some of them take two days to reach Calcutta from there," said Preger, "even if it is a distance of only 50 miles, because slow country boats on the rivers cross the forest are the only modes of transport."

The majority of Preger's assistants are young Westerners, most of them on three- or six-month visas. The permanent staff includes two Indian doctors, one nurse and 16 women who sew clothing for the patients. But without the 15-odd volunteers the clinics would never have survived, says Preger. Some of them are trained nurses, like Adrienne Timmermans from Holland, and others have no medical experience at all. Lars Thomasson, a Swede, is a graphic printer who has now become adept at applying and changing surgical dressings, while Marcia Wallace, an untrained volunteer from England, has become the organisation's bookkeeper.

The volunteers learn or Preger's clinics often by chance. Timmermans, for instance, was visiting Calcutta as a tourist when she met Preger. "I wasn't planning to start working anywhere," she said. "But they needed nurses very much. So I agreed to stay for a week or two. Now I have been here for over two months." There are others who first came to Calcutta to work for Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity but moved to Middleton Row because "it's more meaningful here." And there are still others who learned of Preger's clinics from the media. Britain's Channel 4 television made a documentary on the doctor's work some time ago, "and that gave us a lot of publicity," Preger noted.

"We get a number of volunteers who will do anything," he added, "and we do get some very dramatic cases: infected wounds, road traffic accidents, leprosy cases, TB patients. The volunteers do excellent dressing... in fact, the school of Tropical Medicine (a well-known Calcutta teaching hospital) sometimes sends leprosy patients to us because we do better dressing."

Naren Pramanik, 45, whose disfiguring skin disease makes him look almost 80, says of Preger, "This man only gives. The

hospitals only take." Mujit Ali, 32, fell from a three eight years ago and was paralysed from the waist down. He had to drag himself along the ground until Preger got him an orthopedic tricycle. "This doctor can cure everything except sudden death," Ali says. Another patient chimes in: "Doctor Jack is God on earth; he supports that which society finds insupportable."

Medicine came late to Preger. In the 1950s, he was at Oxford University studying philosophy and politics and specialising in economics. "I had a fairly good teacher in the Institute of Agricultural Economics and I got interested in the economics of underdeveloped regions," he recalled. "I wanted a research job in West Africa but my degree was not good enough."

So he went back to the land, and farming, a life he knew from his childhood in Wales. He became deeply affected by the New Testament of the Bible, and in 1966, at the ripe age of 35, he joined the Catholic church. In the same year he enrolled in the medical school in Dublin. "The very point of studying medicine was to be able to do social work," he explained.

Preger first used his medical skills during his internship. Next to the hospital the Legion of Mary operated a shelter for the homeless and destitute. Preger was impressed by the group and he started working for the home in his spare time. Then the fledgling doctor heard a radio report about Concern, an organisation that urgently needed doctors in Bangladesh. So, in Christmas Eve 1972 he landed in Dhaka. "I didn't really know where I was going or what I was doing. I never had the time to read the papers when I was an intern, so I didn't even know where Bangladesh was," he admits. "I actually rang up the Indian high commission in London to ask where Dhaka was, and they told me it was in a

completely different country."

Memories of his first day there in a refugee camp remain vivid: "I'll never forget it, it was so horrible. They (refugees) were living in total degradation... There was no proper ventilation and the temperature was incredible. Hundreds and hundreds of people, each family with its little bit of floor space. In every passage, every corridor, refugees everywhere."

"Then I went to the Geneva Camp, run very, very badly by the Swiss Red Cross. There was no sanitation. You couldn't walk around in sandals: mud and sewage everywhere. Children would get a glass of milk, and that was that... some occasional food, which they didn't get every day. Everyone in rags... terrible scabies, TB, right through the camps. Within a few months there was a smallpox epidemic."

Preger said that he had trouble sleeping for a long time afterwards. He continued, "I used to dope myself, but I had terrible nightmares. There were three other people from Ireland with me. That (first) night they couldn't eat at all. Two of them were a married couple. But the third, an engineer setting up tube wells in the camps, got more and more depressed and withdrawn. He took to locking himself in. Eventually they had to break down the door and send him home. Then there was another who worked in a home for vagrants. He got very depressed, started drinking and one day he jumped into the hotel swimming pool fully clothed... just lay on the bottom, wouldn't come up. They had to finish him out. He was all right but had to be sent home."

In 1974 Preger became homesick. He went back to Ireland, only to return very soon. Bangladesh was ravaged by floods and famine that year. He joined a Dutch organisation for children and also started a 90-bed clinic



Providing free medical treatment to the poor, Dr. Jack Preger strives to maintain standards of hygiene, which is not the case at other free clinics (WNL).

for destitutes. He continued to work in Bangladesh until 1979, when the government, with no official explanation, ordered him to leave the country after he blew the whistle on a scam involving high officials.

He was put on a plane for Singapore but disembarked at Bangkok and flew to Calcutta. Why Calcutta? "Because I knew the language (Bengali is spoken in Bangladesh and West Bengal) and it's close to Bangladesh where I hoped to return. No, I didn't think then that this city

stood in special need of my help." In August 1979 he offered his services to Calcutta's Missionary Brothers of Charity, working with homeless children and families. But he soon left because he felt that their medical standards were too low.

He has walked a difficult road, including the breakup of his marriage last year. He misses Britain and Ireland, but his work is here. "I am going to be in Calcutta and working as long as I can," he says with a smile. — World News Link.

Cambodia's wild west — whisky, guns and guerrilla

By Satin Wannabovorn Reuter

SRAE-UMPUN, Cambodia — This is Cambodia's wild west — a lawless boom town where guns are more common than street lights, deals are hammered out over whisky, and shadowy warriors lurk in nearby hills.

The port of Srae-Umpun, 120 kilometres west of Phnom Penh, is growing rich from fishing and logging and as a trading post for foreign luxury goods.

Many residents are recent arrivals from the countryside who fled for the relative safety of the town following the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia last September. About 20 per cent of the population of 12,000 are Vietnamese settlers.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas, battling the Phnom Penh government since the Vietnamese invasion in 1979 ended their own bloody rule, are making their presence felt in the surrounding countryside.

"People dare not live in the villages any more. The Khmer Rouge are everywhere in the jungle," said district chief Kao Sangthong.

A few nights ago an explosion rocked the town, sending people running in panic. The next morning it transpired that a gas cylinder in a fishing boat had exploded. But the incident served as an example of the fear of the Khmer Rouge.

Government soldiers inspire little confidence.

At one army camp, reporters saw soldiers smoking marijuana. Artillery pieces were left unmanned — soldiers were in the town working at other jobs, a guard explained.

Troops also extort a "tax," payable in money or cigarettes, from travellers on the road.

"When people say the road to Phnom Penh is unsafe, they mean the danger comes from soldiers," said the wife of a district administrator, who asked not be identified.

Encouraged by a machine-gun tapping on the car window, a reporter handed over 20 riel at a checkpoint a few kilometres outside town — only about five U.S. cents but enough to keep the soldier happy.

Senior civilian officials and businessmen drive around town in new Japanese cars. In one local administrators office, cases of imported scotch whisky stood in stacks and Thai businessmen dropped by to discuss logging contracts.

Ships from Singapore unload goods at Koh Kong, about 30 kilometres west along the coast, where they are transferred into smaller boats and brought into Srae-Umpun on a bay off the Gulf of Siam.

A Koh Kong businessman, Heng Meng, said he had ordered 3,000 motorcycles and dozens of new and second-hand cars last month and quickly sold them all.

Officials said that last month about 100 government soldiers mutinied and looted the market place. A boy was wounded in shooting. All were captured after the fishing boat in which they tried to flee broke down.

Townfolk said the mutineers were angry about corruption and the luxury lifestyles led by officials.

"Socialism cannot apply in this province," said Governor Rung Frankasorn. "We are relaxing."



Orthodox Jews who represent a minority in Israel have received a substantial amount in the 1990 budget, apparently in a bid by politicians to secure their vote.

Rabbis hit jackpot in 1990 Israeli budget

TEL AVIV (R) — Rabbis have scored an unprecedented victory when the Israeli parliament approved a state budget allocating three times more money to religious institutions than in 1989.

The four religious parties, with 18 of the knesset (parliament's) 120 seats, hold the balance of power between Israel's two main parties struggling to form a government.

In the early hours of Friday, religious parties were assured that ultra-orthodox institutions known as "yeshivas" would receive \$111 million in state funds.

The amount surpasses the \$100 million squeezed into the budget virtually at the last minute to build houses for a flood of Soviet immigrants due in Israel this year.

Angry Labour parliamentarians said the price paid for the support of religious parties was tantamount to bribery.

"What is the point of putting price limits on bread, sugar and oil if there is no limit to the price of political bribery? How do we clean the shame?" said Yair Tzaban, head of the leftist Mapam Party.

Several parliamentarians argued the increase would jeopardize essential welfare pro-

grammes as the nation grappled to absorb a new influx of immigrants and slash an 8.9 per cent unemployment rate — the highest in two decades.

Long-bearded rabbis in black cloaks have become central figures in Israel's political arena since the collapse of a 15-month coalition between the rightist Likud and more dovish Labour Party over a U.S. peace proposal.

Support in parliament is split 60-60 for each party.

Labour leader Shimon Peres was granted first try to form a government which he hopes will lead to talks with Palestinians on holding elections in the occupied territories and ending a 27-month uprising there.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud, which obtained the increase in funds for the religious institutions thanks to its majority in the parliament finance committee, was likely to gain points with the rabbis after the budget approval.

Labour members of the committee were pressured by their leaders to approve the boost in funds though the party had previously set a \$75-million limit on religious funds.

The ultra-orthodox account for only 10 per cent of Israel's Jewish

population and the focus on them during budget debates enraged secular Israelis.

The rabbis say they just wish to offer their youngsters free education like that granted at public secular schools.

Television reporters said they had not managed to locate several institutions which appeared on a list of would-be recipients of thousands of dollars this year.

The Israeli budget was passed without a finance minister. Peres, who was vice-premier and finance minister in the crisis which culminated in the collapse of the coalition government.

Israel Central Bank Governor Michael Bruno said he expected the budget to be revised in three months under a new finance minister.

The largest single allocation in 1990 was \$11 billion to debt servicing. Defence was the second largest at about \$6 billion, up 125 million on the previous year.

The treasury fixed a target five per cent increase in gross domestic product compared with a one per cent growth rate in the past two years.

The budget also aimed to lower inflation from 20.7 per cent in 1989, though an estimated figure for the year was not announced.

EC ministers meet to discuss monetary union

GALWAY, Ireland (AP) — European finance ministers gathered Saturday for fresh discussions on their ambitious plans to form a monetary union with an American-style central bank and a common currency.

The ministers of the European Community opened day-long talks at Ashford castle in western Ireland by discussing proposals for quickly putting together an economic and monetary merger.

A knowledgeable source, demanding anonymity, said technical aspects of the plans "have been taken to a certain point, and they have bumped up against the political plane."

"It is necessary at this stage to get a political steer — are they going in the right direction or are they not," he said.

If the ministers give broad support to the plans, "the technical work can be taken further," he said.

Ireland's finance minister, Albert Reynolds, reminded his colleagues that there was "full agreement about the principle of realising economic and monetary union (EMU)."

Even so, he said, "there are differences of view about the precise concept of EMU to be adopted, and still greater diver-

ty of opinions about the processes by which to create and sustain union."

The ministers' talks are part of a series that EC officials will hold in the coming months to discuss the trading bloc's future shape.

French President Francois Mitterrand, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and others have urged the community to form even closer links in response to the political upheavals in Eastern Europe.

They argue the community must be strengthened to give badly needed support to the emerging democracies on the Eastern half of the continent.

Moreover, they want to make sure that West Germany and its powerhouse economy remain firmly anchored in the community. They fear it will be distracted by the rush to a united Germany.

As a result, some of the leaders have begun pressing for a quick economic and monetary merger and a political union of the 12 nations in the coming years.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has opposed such radical moves, fearing a loss of sovereignty to new European institutions.

At Saturday's talks, the finance ministers will take a look at a

proposal drawn up by the community's executive body for an independent banking system, patterned after the U.S. Federal Reserve and the West German Bundesbank.

In a recent interview, Housing Christopher, vice-president of the trading bloc, said the banking system could be set up in 1993 under the accelerated timetable for economic and monetary union.

The economic merger of the dozen nations, he said, "is now going to be part of the European architecture."

"It is not only an ambition for some governments or for the commission (the community's executive body)," he said.

The community is considering a three-stage blueprint for economic integration that recommends creation of a European system of central banks, nicknamed Eurofed, and use of the ECU — the European Currency Unit — as the joint currency.

The first stage of the plan will go into effect July 1 when governments coordinate more closely their economic and monetary policies. Capital and exchange controls will be abolished so money can move freely among the nations.

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market starting Saturday Mar. 24, '90 and ending Wednesday Mar. 28, '90. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1350	4107	3.330	2.990	1,000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	7321	11449	1.570	1.580	1,000
Housing Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5,000
Bank of Jordan	1089	16097	14.630	14.800	5,000
Arab Bank	2470	617655	255.500	253.000	10,000
Jordan National Bank	800	1806	2.250	2.400	1,000
Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan)	2333	3262	2.320	2.170	1,000
Jordan Investment and Finance Bank	1435	4520	3.200	3.150	1,000
National Portfolio Securities	3102	5903	2.000	1.900	1,000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	1370	3016	2.250	2.150	1,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2,000
Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	200	175	0.930	0.850	1,000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Middle East Insurance	100	198	1.900	1.980	1,000
Jordan French Insurance	15715	21540	1.600	1.570	1,000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	1850	2664	1.440	1.440	1,000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Philadelphia Insurance	2480	4199	1.700	1.630	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	2800	4760	1.700	1.700	1,000
General Arabia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Ahlia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Reunion Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Eagle Insurance	119	286	2.400	2.400	1,000
Universal Insurance	1000	950	1.000	0.950	1,000
Services and industries					
General Investments	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Investment and Financial Facilities	—	—	—	—	1,000
Danco for Housing and Investment	3050	2928	1.010	0.960	1,000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	80024	57529	0.740	0.720	1,000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	196375	86005	0.430	0.430	1,000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	47794	27871	0.600	0.580	1,000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'joro	—	—	—	—	1,000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordanian Electric Power	2133	2977	1.350	1.400	1,000
Hydro Electric Electricity	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab International Hotels	3860	5869	1.530	1.520	1,000
Hotels and Tourism	772	1531	2.180	1.970	1,000
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	35700	21326	0.620	0.600	1,000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	2600	6438	2.560	2.470	1,000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Press and Publishing	1650	3300	2.000	2.000	1,000
Der Al Shari Press, Printing and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Dairy	44700	69335	1.450	1.640	1,000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	9702	40035	4.100	4.080	1,000
Jordan Medical Corporation	4167	3821	0.950	0.900	1,000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	86300	234717	2.830	2.770	1,000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	350	1628	4.600	4.650	1,000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Inta)	1759	3734	2.170	2.040	1,000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	1300	11835	8.530	8.490	1,000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	27500	38687	1.660	1.640	1,000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1,000
Aladdin Industries	4750	12833	2.640	2.650	1,000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	22065	59468	2.850	2.900	1,000
Jordan Worested Mills	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Ceramics	300	855	2.850	2.850	1,000
Chemical Industries	700	1953	2.820	2.790	1,000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	8550	13259	1.670	1.480	1,000
Der Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	1080	4689	4.400	4.200	1,000
National Steel Industries	3750	8958	2.500	2.300	1,000
Universal Chemical Industries	4650	25412	5.800	5.550	1,000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	3467	28314	8.150	8.240	1,000
Jordan Lime & Brick	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Industries	15770	15073	1.120	1.150	1,000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	35150	141057	3.980	4.150	1,000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	23301	54245	2.340	2.350	1,000
Jordan Sulphate Chemicals	25730	64581	2.700	2.730	1,000
Jordan Cement Factories	40617	43255	1.070	1.060	1,000
Jordan Glass Industries	59550	68066	1.150	1.150	1,000
Jordan Fibre Concrete Industry	46550	23965	0.530	0.520	1,000
National Quarry	6600	7680	1.150	1.190	1,000
Arab Potash	—	—	—	—	1,000
Grand total	1,277,774	2,336,194			

German unification to cost \$26b — think tank

EAST BERLIN (R) — An East German think tank said Friday that the cost of German unification would be about 45 billion West German marks (\$26.5 billion) and up to one quarter of the workforce out of jobs.

Lutz Maier, head of the influential Institute for International Politics and Economics (IPW), told a news conference this was his estimate for introducing the West German currency, ending price controls, reforming the tax and banking systems.

"The total cost of creating a market economy is not completely clear. So these calculations are somewhat speculative," the news agency ADN quoted Maier as saying.

Maier's estimate assumed that East German salaries and pensions would be converted into West German marks at a rate of one to one.

His study envisaged unemployment, virtually unknown under the Communist government, topped late last year, peaking at between 1.5 and two million out of a workforce of just over eight million.

"We need a more mobile workforce, involving wide-ranging re-training programmes," Maier said. But with enough investment the long-term prospects for the economy were rosy, he added.

One unknown in Maier's calculations was the level of debt in industries and firms.

Under Communist rule, statistics were rarely published and often depicted a more favourable picture than reality warranted.

The East German state bank published its annual report for the first time this week, showing foreign debt at about \$18.5 billion and gross domestic product at 353 billion East German marks (\$208 billion at the official commercial rate).

Soviet options for price reform range from bad to worse

MOSCOW (R) — Oil can be cheaper than mineral water in the Soviet Union, the official news agency TASS said Friday, in explaining the need for price reform.

Such reforms are inevitable if the people's confidence in the government does not drop so low as to make change impossible, TASS quoted Vyacheslav Senchagov, chairman of the state committee on prices, as saying.

Price reform is part of a package of radical economic measures likely to be introduced this year in what Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev calls a "controlled transfer" from central planning to "market relations."

But, to the Soviet consumer, the pricing options Senchagov outlined to parliament Thursday could be classified as bad, worse and somewhere in between.

Under the first, both wholesale and retail prices would be allowed to rise an average 20 to 30 per cent. They would still be regulated but state subsidies, which now hold down the price of basics such as bread and meat, would disappear.

The second, "shock" solution would follow the "Polish pattern," a reference to Warsaw's decision to introduce a full market system and free prices.

Prices of oil and coal would shoot up three to five-fold, unprofitable businesses would be closed and unemployment would climb. The rouble would become convertible to other currencies more quickly, but its value would drop many times.

"It is unclear however whether the population of the country will reconcile themselves to such shock therapy," TASS said.

The last option combined the first two — regulating prices of staples such as oil, grain, cotton, and sugar, while allowing prices of other commodities to rise 15 to 30 per cent.

"The deficiency of this variant is that it is obviously transitional on the road to establishment of a market economy," TASS quoted Senchagov as saying. "In the long run the second variant is inevitable."

He said the government was leaning toward the third, "compromise" option, but no final decision had been made.

Gorbachev, who has described the economic changes under consideration as "our biggest turning point," said formal debate will begin within two weeks at a meeting of his presidential council, an advisory body created by the same law which gave him sweeping powers.

The Soviet news agency Interfax reported earlier this month that new economic laws would be passed by July 1.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, March 31, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	117.3	118.0
U.S. dollar	669.0	673.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	422.3	424.8
Pound Sterling	1100.8	1097.4	Dutch guilder	330.5	332.6
Deutsche mark	394.7	397.1	Swedish crown	109.3	110.0
Swiss franc	446.3	449.0	Italian lire (for 100)	53.6	53.9
			Belgian franc (for 10)	190.6	191.7

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY APRIL 1, 1990

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when considerable confusion is apt to be all about you and you will feel uncertain as to just where you stand with others. Let others see that you are willing to go half way too.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't be so preoccupied with pleasures that you neglect to consider just what you can do to progress more rapidly with an ambitious talent.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) There are many little problems connected with home and family or property matters to be attended to now but take over-all view and you do well.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You feel you do not know the exact answer to make in city communications but just put on your best thinking cap and you soon do very well.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are uncertain just what you do about a property matter but just put on your best thinking cap and you soon do very well.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can be highly perturbed about the important course of action you want to have in effect for sometime but need to use tact in pursuing action.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) You need to think bigger in the

privacy of your own thoughts if you are to gain the aim which privately means so very much to you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are too wrapped up in your own little affairs and need the advice of a person of imagination to gain your cherished present longings.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You need to have a clearer picture of your responsibilities as a good citizen if you are to make the rapid progress that appeals to you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) One of high character and fruitful imagination will give you the best ideas now for new outlets for your talents; accept them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are able to find an improved formula for handling whatever promises you have made so follow them but don't be resentful of extra time required.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Matters coming into the open showing just what an influential person will do so you will be able to gain worldly progress important to you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) If you make your environment and surroundings more attractive today you will not only be more pleasing at home but also more comfortable.

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine

ACROSS
1 Vigors and Burrows
5 Unsettled
9 Toward the stem
14 Tractable
15 Astronaut
16 Denoting
17 Island off Turkey
18 Confront
20 "— neighbor and weigh"
21 WWI horses
22 Confront
23 Counterpart
25 Spiritually
27 Lacerate
28 Enact
30 Singer Johnny
34 Vase dir.
38 Lyle of golf
39 On (on road)
40 Offhand
42 Omitting none
43 Border
44 Surprised exclamations

DOWN
2 Light wood
3 Hostile
4 Rap session?
6 Two of a kind
7 Forebode bones
8 On (on road)
10 Liquid measure
11 Placid Myra
12 City
13 Not at all
14 On the ball
15 On (on road)
16 Liquid measure
17 Placid Myra
18 City
19 Not at all
20 On the ball
21 On (on road)
22 Liquid measure
23 Placid Myra
24 City
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26 On the ball
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44 On the ball
45 On (on road)
46 Liquid measure
47 Placid Myra
48 City
49 Not at all
50 On the ball
51 On (on road)
52 Liquid measure
53 Placid Myra
54 City
55 Not at all
56 On

Top U.S. basketball player, coach named

DENVER (AP) — Unlike some of his money-conscious brethren, Lionel Simmons chose to return to college for his senior year.

The decision not only will be worth a degree this spring, but it helped Simmons earn the Adolph Rupp trophy as the Associated Press College Basketball Player of the Year.

And the trophy, ironically, may mean an even more lucrative professional contract.

Simmons, a 2.01-metre forward at La Salle whose 3,217 points are exceeded by only two other players in NCAA history, was presented the award Friday.

Simmons received 135 of 438 votes in a nationwide poll of sports writers and broadcasters conducted before the NCAA tournament.

Gary Payton of Oregon State was second with 102 votes, followed by Derrick Coleman of Syracuse with 63 and the late Hank Gathers of Loyola Marymount with 42.

"Looking at the names of players who have won this award in the past, I feel very honoured," Simmons said. "It's mind-boggling, knowing my name will

go up there with all those other great players.

"This is something you dream of. It's a prestigious honour, one I will cherish."

The award, named for the late University of Kentucky coach, is sponsored by the Commonwealth Athletic Club of Kentucky.

Previous winners included Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Patrick Ewing, David Robinson, Bill Walton, Mark Aguirre, David Thompson, Ralph Simpson and last year's recipient, Sean Elliott.

Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun, who led his Huskies from preseason also-rans to the big east title and within one game of the NCAA tournament's final four, was named college basketball coach of the year.

Calhoun, the first big east coach to win the award, received 194 votes in nationwide balloting by sports writers. He easily outdistanced Kansas' Roy Williams, who received 83 votes, and Michigan State's Jud Heathcote, with 80.

The Huskies finished with a school-record 31 victories against just six losses and were ranked as high as third in the poll.

Tiozzo takes boxing crown

LYON, France (AP) — Frenchman Christophe Tiozzo used a rapid left jab to batter South Korea's Baek In-Chul and take the World Boxing Association Super Middleweight crown away from him.

Tiozzo, 26, improved to 26-0. Baek, in his third defense of the crown he won in May 1989, is now 47-3, with all three losses coming outside of South Korea.

From the outset, Tiozzo used superior speed to reach Baek with powerful left punches. He caught Baek walking in with a quick right in the second that surprised the South Korean.

"I wanted to keep jabbing and be active," Tiozzo said. "It worked out that way from the beginning."

In the third, another right followed a series of punches that sent Baek, 28, stumbling. He was given a standing eight count by referee Carlos Berocal of Panama.

"We wanted to keep the guy busy and keep him off balance," Tiozzo's trainer, Don Turner, said. Turner has worked with past champions Thomas Hearns and Aaron Pryor.

Occasionally, Baek advanced in an attempt to box inside against his taller opponent. But Tiozzo held the South Korean away by keeping him left active.

"I didn't want him to reach for him," Turner said. "So it was good when Baek kept coming in."

In the fifth round, Tiozzo's punches opened a cut over Baek's left eye. The ring doctor briefly checked Baek but allowed the fight to continue.

In the sixth, Tiozzo opened the cut again and scored frequently. At that point, the referee decided Baek had had enough and stopped the fight.

A capacity crowd of 10,000 people watched the fight at the arena Lyon Palais Des Sports.

Czechoslovakia ties with the U.S. in Davis Cup quarterfinals

PRAGUE (AP) — Last-minute replacement Petr Korda ambushed Brad Gilbert in three quick sets Friday to give Czechoslovakia a 1-1 tie in its quarterfinal Davis Cup clash with the United States.

In the opening match, Aaron Krickstein took advantage of wildness by tying Milan Srejber of Czechoslovakia to win a five-set battle that lasted nearly four hours, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-5), 6-7 (4-7), 6-3.

Korda, a wiry left-hander who was named to play singles for Czechoslovakia when Davis Cup veteran Miloslav Mecir withdrew with a back pain, needed just one hour, 44 minutes to defeat Gilbert 6-2, 6-3, 6-3.

Korda, ranked 26th in the world, kept Gilbert off balance with his hard serve and kept the fifth-ranked American running from side to side until he had a chance to hit a winning shot.

Gilbert, who bounced his racket on the court and kicked the ball in disgust, resorted in the final set to trying to slow Korda down with a series of lobs. But that did little to stop Korda, who rolled on his back on the court and kicked his legs in the air to celebrate the victory.

The "reverse" singles matches, with Krickstein taking on Korda and Gilbert playing Srejber, will be held Sunday.

The survivor of the series will advance to the semifinals in September against the winner of this weekend's contest between Austria and Italy. Austria led that series 2-0 after Friday's matches.

Krickstein's marathon victory, which opened the weekend series at the Sportovní Hala Ice Rank, took three hours, 57 minutes.

Srejber overpowered Krickstein with his booming serve in the first set, wrapping up the set with his seventh ace. But Srejber gradually lost control of his serve as he tired, resulting in more double faults than aces for the rest of the match.

After winning only three points on Srejber's serve in the first set, Krickstein started catching up with the Czechoslovak's big serve and waiting for mistakes. Srejber, ranked 59 in the world, had only two aces and four double faults in the second set and lost a 7-5 tiebreaker.

The wildness continued in the third set, with five aces and an equal number of double faults for Srejber, and the seventh-ranked

Krickstein wrapped up another 7-5 tiebreaker with a lob over Srejber's head that was returned into the net.

Srejber rebounded in the fourth set to win a 7-4 tiebreaker, but he collapsed in the final set. The Czechoslovak lost the first four games of the set, and a late rally fell short when Krickstein slammed a service return past Srejber on his third match point.

Meanwhile in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Alberto Mancini fell behind in every set Friday, but rallied at key points to defeat Jens Worthmann, handing Argentina a 1-0 lead over defending champion West Germany in Davis Cup quarterfinal play.

In a match that was delayed by rain and lasted 4 hours 35 minutes once it began, Mancini ousted Worthmann 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7-2) and 7-6 (7-2).

The second singles match between Argentina's Martin Jaite, ranked no. 11 in the world, and Carl-Uwe Steeb, ranked 14, was postponed until Saturday because of impending darkness and the threat of rain.

"The German was playing his first Davis Cup match and must have gotten a bit nervous on the

crucial points, like the tiebreaks," Mancini said.

Worthmann agreed, "top players like Mancini, who is no. 16 in the world, always play best at decisive points and that is what he did today," said Worthmann, 18 years old and ranked 83rd in the world.

Both players hit from the baseline and tried to keep the ball in play rather than drill winners. Both had problems getting their first services in, and made any unforced errors.

Mancini, 20, was particularly inconsistent. Trailing 3-1 in the first set, he served an ace to win game four broke Worthmann's service to tie the score and served another ace to close out game seven and taken the lead.

In the third set, he serviced and lost four straight points in the opening game, then came back to serve and win four straight points in the fifth.

"In the fourth set, he squandered a 4-2 match point at 5-4, only to crush Worthmann 7-2 in the tiebreaker."

"The German played well, but I was able to raise my game when I had to," Mancini said. "He played better than I expected."

Jennings: Trying to cut down after world championship

AIX LES BAINS, France (AP) — After winning the world cross country championship and setting three records this year, Lynn Jennings plans to cut down on her running but not her ambitions.

She wants to enter shorter races over the summer in Europe with an eye on moving back up to the 10,000 metres at the Track and Field World Championships

in 1991 and the Olympics in 1992.

Jennings, the first American woman since 1975 to win the world cross country title, finally is reaching her potential after 10 years of spotty performances.

What's next for the 29-year-old from Newmarket, New Hampshire, by age 30?

"To get better," she says. "I would love to get much, much

better."

The thought of Jennings getting better is almost mind-boggling. Since September, she has a 15-race winning streak.

That has encompassed six road races, including a new American record for 10 kilometres, six indoor races, including a world best for 5,000 metres and an American record for 3,000, and three cross-country races, including a 12-second margin of victory in the world championships last weekend in southern France.

"Before, I wasn't confident as an athlete," Jennings said. "I feel I made the breakthrough with those performances. Now I feel I am breathing fire on the starting line these days."

After the bests at 5,000 metres and 10 kilometres and the exhilaration of the world championship field over a six-kilometre course, Jennings looks to come to Europe over the summer and run shorter races on the track.

"This year will be devoted to improving my rhythm at 1,500 and 3,000 metres," she said. "I am sure there will be a hot 5,000 somewhere this summer."

"I don't plan to run a track 10,000 until the championship

year," she added, referring to the World Track and Field Championships in Tokyo in 1991. After that there are Olympics in 1992 in Barcelona.

Jennings has had success in the 10,000, finishing sixth at that distance in both the 1987 world championships and the 1988 Olympics.

But she hopes to pick up speed over the summer on the European circuit after plotting strategy with her coach, John Babington.

"Since I started working with him, he has helped me make great strides in the last eight months," Jennings said.

Jennings coached herself for two years prior to the 1988 Olympics but decided to go back to Babington, an attorney in Boston, who had coached her before.

Jennings had a career of ups-and-downs since she was a teenage running sensation in Harvard, Massachusetts.

"I didn't win an NCAA championship," she said. "My best was a third in the 3,000 my senior year."

After graduating with a history degree in 1983, she started losing interest in running, culminating in a disastrous performance at the 1984 Olympic trials.

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — Adjusting to life in the National Hockey League has taken a lot longer than Soviet player Viacheslav Fetisov had expected.

The road trips, the new teammates, the constant hitting and the higher intensity level have made it difficult for the star 31-year-old defenseman.

However, the getting-acquainted period seems to be ending late in Fetisov's "rookie" season and that is going to help the New Jersey Devils when the playoffs start next week.

Fetisov had his most productive game in the NHL Thursday night, collecting a goal and four assists as the Devils defeated the New York Rangers 6-4 to clinch second place in the Patrick Division.

"In the Soviet Union I'm not used to every game meaning so much," Fetisov said through interpreter Dimitri Lopuchin, the Devils' strength coach. "I'm used to peaking for certain tournaments."

Fetisov is peaking now. He

won't say it, but his play indicates it. He is controlling the puck in his end of the ice and becoming more dangerous in the offensive zone.

Devils' coach John Cuniff compares him to either Wayne Gretzky or Mario Lemieux.

"Gretzky and Lemieux's line-mates always seem to be going to the holes," Cuniff said. "They get there and they know they are going to get the puck right on their sticks."

The Devils needed time to realize Fetisov does the same thing. "I think we have learned now that Slava always looks for the

pass," said Devils' left wing Brendan Shanahan, who got his 30th goal of the season Thursday on a tip-in set up by Fetisov and fellow Soviet defenseman Alexei Kasatonov. "The players are starting to read off of him."

Shanahan said part of the early-season problem was that

Fetisov and his new teammates weren't thinking alike.

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JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO., LTD INVITATION TO TENDER ESHIDIYA PHOSPHATE MINE PROJECT

This notice for specific goods follows the general procurement notice for this project which appeared in the United Nations Development Forum Issue 291, March 31, 1990.

The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies equivalent to \$31 million, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of the loan to eligible payments under the contracts for which this invitation to tender is issued.

Tenders are invited for Tender No. 5F/90 (2 hydraulic face shovels 6.0 cu.m. for Eshidiya Mine).

Tender documents are available to eligible bidders at the address below and will be available from March 31, 1990. On payment of JD 150, which will be non-refundable, bids in sealed envelopes shall be submitted to the address below not later than 14.00 hours local on May 15, 1990.

The Managing Director
Jordan Phosphate Mines Company
P.O. Box 30, Amman, Jordan
Tel. 680141-7
Telex 21223 FOSFAT JO. / Fax: 682290.

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Aufgrund neuer Rechtslage koennen kuenftig Oesterreicher auch im Ausland an Oesterreichischen Bundeswahlen und bundesweiten Volksabstimmungen teilnehmen. Dies wird erstmals bei den Nationalratswahlen am 7. Oktober 1990 moeglich sein. Voraussetzung ist zunaechst die Eintragung in die Waehlerevidenz einer oesterreichischen Gemeinde.

Diesbezugliche Antragsformulare sind ab sofort bei der Botschaft erhaeltlich. Fuer Auskuenfte steht die Botschaft (Tel. 644635), zur Veruegung.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

WEST EAST

Q 5 K 10 9 8

K 5 2 Q J 4 3

K 8 3 10 7

J 8 7 4 3 10 9 6

SOUTH

A 7 3 2

A 9 8

Q 5

A Q 5 2

The bidding:

West North East South

Pass 2 C Pass 3 NT

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

The standard of play in the recent

World Junior Championships was

extremely high. This fine defense

was turned in by Great Britain's

Stuart Tredinnick, sitting in the

West seat.

After North's weak two-diamond

opening bid, South simply

made the value bid. West's normal

lead of fourth-best from length and

strength proved to be especially ef-

fective, because it knocked out the only entry to dummy before declarer could even get started.

After winning dummy's king of clubs, declarer led a diamond to his queen. Tredinnick ducked—the only player to find this superb bit of deception! Not surprisingly, declarer decided East held the king of diamonds. After fiddling around for a while, trying to get a count of the hand, declarer eventually led a diamond to the ace. When the king did not drop, South could come to only seven tricks.

Did Tredinnick get the Brillancy Prize for this effort? No! Was there a hand defended with more panache? No! But 11 years ago, during the 1978 World Team Olympiad, France's Dominique Pilon was faced with exactly the same situation, also in the diamond suit. He, too, refused to capture South's queen with his king, and was awarded the Brillancy Prize for his effort.

We quote from Ecclesiastes 1: "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be and there is no new thing under the sun." Tredinnick's problem, quite simply, is that he was born too late!

LOST PASSPORT

Abdur Rashid for Jam Ullah from Bangladesh announces the loss of his passport issued from Bangladesh on 18.4.1982, passport number C 980945.

If found please call the nearest police station.

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Tom Cruise
in

RAIN MAN

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD

EXTREME PREJUDICE

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

PHILADELPHIA

Mahmoud Yassin & Najwa Ibrahim in
AWAY FROM
THE LAND
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

NIJOUN

KARAKEEB

(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

PIAZA

SUMMER
SCHOOL

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

E. German politicians clear names in Stasi row; talks lag

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany's top three politicians all but cleared their names over allegations they were Stasi security police informers, but attempts to form the country's first non-Communist government still lag.

The official East German News Agency (ADN) said late Friday the country's likely next prime minister, Christian Democratic Party (CDU) leader Lothar de Maiziere, had been absolved of working for the former Stasi.

Communist Party chief Gregor Gysi, a lawyer like the CDU politician, looked at De Maizieres files and also found nothing incriminating about himself at the Stasi's vast Normannenstrasse headquarters in East Berlin.

Earlier Social Democrat (SPD) Ibrahim Boehme saw his files and said afterwards he would resume leadership of the party Monday, a week after he stepped aside to clear his name.

"East Germany's top politicians emerged exonerated from a review of their Stasi files," said ADN. But it cited Boehme's lawyer as saying some documents had yet to be studied.

"I think we will close this chapter within a week," lawyer Friedrich-Wilhelm Von Sell said.

The Stasi kept files on virtually every citizen as part of its system of keeping East Germany under control during the four decades on Stalinist rule that ended peacefully last year.

Allegations that politicians and dozens of the 400 new parliamentarians were Stasi informers have hampered efforts to form a government following East Germany's first free elections two weeks ago in which a three-party conservative alliance led by the CDU won the most votes.

The focus now for the parties involved in a coalition talks — the second-placed SPD and the CDU — is who will be in the government rather than who they previously worked for.

Explanatory talks resume Sunday, with the CDU keen to make the negotiations more binding because parliament convenes next Thursday to approve De Maiziere as premier and to ask him to present a cabinet as soon as possible.

The SPD says discussions will remain tentative as long as the CDU insists on including its right-wing election ally, the German Social Union (DSU).

Although the SPD hinted earlier this week it did not entirely rule out a coalition with the DSU, the Social Democrats said Friday such a team was difficult to imagine.

With the economy in tatters and Bonn waiting to start unifica-

tion talks with the new government, the SPD is under growing pressure to drop its resistance to the DSU.

The small Liberal Alliance of Free Democrats has already been agreed in principle with the conservatives to join a coalition.

Soldiers want to switch to civilian service

Meanwhile, thousands of East German soldiers want to switch to civilian duties for the rest of their military service, ADN said Saturday.

The agency quoted an East German official as saying 14,000 soldiers had applied to change to non-uniformed duties in hospitals, old people's homes, industry or forestry.

The figure could rise to 40,000 in addition to those new recruits who opt for civilian rather than army service.

The East German Armed Forces, once the pride of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact, have faced dramatic problems since last year's revolution overthrew the Communist old guard and set East Germany on a course for unification with West Germany.

Many recruits have simply gone home, others have deserted to the West and those who remain do not adhere to discipline.

The full strength of the armed forces, including 77,500 professional soldiers, was 172,000 until last year. Now the figure is down to almost half that total.

Bulgaria to hold free elections in June

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's Communist-dominated parliament voted Friday to hold the country's first free elections for 40 years in June, completing the sweep of East European countries moving to democracy.

The National Assembly also accepted constitutional changes which will wipe out all traces of socialism.

Formal approval of the electoral laws is expected next Tuesday when parliament is due to dissolve itself to allow campaigning for the elections on June 10 and 17 to begin.

Parliament agreed to change the existing constitution to describe Bulgaria as a democratic republic and drop any reference to the word "socialist".

Bulgaria will be the last East European state — apart from Albania — to hold multi-party elections, following closely behind Czechoslovakia, which has polls on June 8 and 9. East Germany and Hungary voted this month and Romania will vote in May.

Several veteran Communist deputies told Reuters that they felt insulted by the opposition-inspired programme of changes and would try to organise a last-ditch campaign against them.

One party official said he estimated that one third of the Communist parliamentarians could defect to form their own party.

Despite the fall of headline leader Todor Zhivkov last November and the birth of a vigorous intellectual-led opposition, opinion polls show the Communists still enjoy great public support.

A new constitution will be drawn up by the new body elected in June. Conceding a key opposition demand, the government agreed this should be a 400-member body, known as a "great national assembly," which would decide whether to resign or carry on its routine functions after creating the new basic law.

In return, the opposition agreed to accept Petar Mladenov, the current head of the ruling state council, as the first holder of the new post of president of Bulgaria.

Under the new election law, the first round of voting will elect 200 members by a proportional system, with voters opting for parties rather than individuals. The rest of the members will be elected by a simple majority vote.

Parties will have to poll at least four per cent of the vote to win a seat in parliament. Any individual will be allowed to form a political party provided it is not based on religion, is not fascist and does not support violence.

The laws fixed strict limits on foreign aid for opposition parties which lack funds after four decades of one-party rule.

Baker attacks U.S. isolationism

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State James Baker has vowed to resist isolationist pressures for the United States to lower its international profile because of the easing of East-West tensions.

Referring to the renewal of the age-old debate within the United States over what its international role should be, Baker said in a speech in Texas that the world still needed American leadership. The text of his speech was made available to reporters in Washington.

"Now that the adversaries of democracy are weaker, some say we should retire, mission accomplished, to tend our problems at home," Baker said.

"I am not among them. In the new world struggling to be born... there is no substitute for American leadership."

Senior officials said isolationist sentiment was becoming a serious concern for the administration of President George Bush, which has scored most of its successes in foreign rather than domestic policy.

"The speech is a part of an effort which I think we will be making more of in the future to try and effect a debate at home," said one senior State Department official.

"The notion... is that with all the changes internationally, we are also facing a changed debate at home... whether it be neo-isolationism or a question of how the

United States leadership changes," he said.

Baker said that supporting democracy would become an important tool of U.S. foreign policy, not only in Eastern Europe and Central America but also in areas of the world where democracy has traditionally not flourished.

"I reject and I hope America always rejects the view that democracy is for certain societies but has no place in Africa or Asia or South America or even in the Middle East," he said.

A democratic Soviet Union was the best long-term guarantee of a constructive Soviet approach to international problems, Baker argued.

Pakistan rules out war over Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan will not be pushed or provoked into another war with neighbouring India over the disputed territory of Kashmir, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said.

Yaqub Khan said he did not believe India wanted another war either.

"The biggest reason for this determination is that war is no solution to any problem," the foreign minister said at a dinner Friday night for participants of an envoys' conference.

Pakistan and India have fought two wars over Kashmir, an old princely state now divided by a United Nations monitored cease-fire line.

The eastern part is held by India and called Jammu-Kashmir, while the western slice is controlled by Pakistan and called Azad Kashmir, or free Kashmir.

Muslim militants have been demanding creation of an indepen-

dent nation in Jammu-Kashmir, the only state with a Muslim majority in predominantly Hindu India.

The secessionist movement flared anew on Jan. 20 when Muslim youths took to the streets to protest a government crackdown on the militants. More than 200 people have been killed, mostly in clashes between Indian security forces and Muslims.

India regularly accuses Pakistan of instigating the militant movement, a charge the Islamabad government denies.

The secessionist movement has been fading and flaring since the 1947 division of the British-ruled subcontinent into India and Islamic Pakistan.

Muslim militants at one time wanted to become part of Pakistan, but in the past year they have been demanding independence and the status of a neutral country.

ANC postpones talks with South African government

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The African National Congress (ANC) Saturday postponed its long-awaited first official meeting with the South African government in protest against police shootings in a black township.

The decision, which followed a week of increased violence in black areas across the country, is a severe blow to the delicate movement towards negotiations between the country's white rulers and the black majority over possible future power-sharing.

"The talks have been suspended as a protest against the killings in Sebokeng," ANC internal leader Ahmad Kathrada said, adding the postponement was indefinite. The meeting had been set for April 11.

Senior ANC officials said a statement would be issued from their Lusaka headquarters later. South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha told reporters: "The government regrets the ANC decision. We are investigating the Sebokeng killings."

President F. W. de Klerk had set considerable store in the talks as a key to a programme of political reforms he began last month with the legalisation of the ANC, the biggest black opposition group, and the release from prison of its figurehead, Nelson Mandela.

(Glenn Babb, a prominent par-

liamentarian for the ruling National Party, said he believed the ANC's authority had been seriously undermined by the outbreak of black factional violence and that the organisation may be playing for time to get its house in order.

At least 11 people were killed and hundreds injured when police opened fire last Monday on thousands of demonstrators in Sebokeng black township south of Johannesburg when they protested against inferior municipal services under apartheid race laws.

Police said they were forced to shoot in self defence when attacked by a stone-throwing mob, but independent witnesses said the crowd was peaceful when police fired shotguns, tear gas and rubber bullets.

The ANC initially was silent about the incident, but Mandela indicated Wednesday that his movement would react.

"We must do something about this," he said when he visited the wounded in Sebokeng hospital.

ANC officials said privately then that the April 11 meeting might be suspended unless the government withdrew troops from black townships.

The talks are the second important reconciliatory meeting suspended by the ANC in the past 24 hours.

Philip compares population bomb to nuclear holocaust

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Britain's Prince Philip has warned that the global consequences of unimpeded population growth would be "more devastating than a nuclear holocaust."

In a speech to the U.N. population fund (the Duke of Edinburgh said it was high time that political leaders began to face facts and attempt to solve the population crisis).

"The fuse of the population bomb has already been ignited and the consequences of the exploitation for the future of the world will be a great deal more devastating than any nuclear holocaust," he said.

The prince, who is head of the Worldwide Fund for Nature, said the human population growth sustained by science and technology from rich nations caused almost insoluble problems for future generations.

"Anyone who believes that we can somehow push people out to find a new home on some other planet or some other solar system

can only be a science fiction addict," said the prince, husband of Queen Elizabeth.

Population growth "is consuming essential as well as non-essential resources at a rate that cannot be sustained, and above all, it is condemning thousands of our fellow living organisms to extinction," he said.

Without proposing any specific remedies, he said that it must be obvious by now that further population growth in any country was undesirable.

Citing statistics that show the current world population — more than five billion — would reach 14 billion by the year 2100, he castigated the so-called "plenty-of-room lobby" for believing the Earth could sustain such growth.

The president population, he said, could survive only by consuming "non-renewable resources at an accelerating rate and renewable resources, such as timber and sea fish, at a rate much faster than they can naturally regenerate."

Poindexter jury starts deliberations Monday

WASHINGTON (R) — John Poindexter's criminal case, the last major trial stemming from the Iran-contra scandal that rocked Ronald Reagan's presidency, goes to the jury Monday following final arguments from prosecution and defence.

The 54-year-old retired navy rear admiral was portrayed by his attorneys in closing statements Friday as the responsible "captain of the ship" at Reagan's National Security Council.

But prosecutors said Poindexter had committed a "crime of deception" and should be punished.

When such crimes were committed, said lead prosecutor Dan Webb, they "cracked the very foundation on which our system of government rests."

Poindexter is charged with five felonies stemming from the cover-up of the 1985-86 operation to sell arms to Iran in exchange for U.S. hostages and then funnel the profits from weapons sales to the Nicaraguan contras despite a congressional ban on such aid.

He is charged with two counts of lying to Congress, two of obstructing Congress and one of conspiring to commit these crimes.

Conviction on all five charges could mean a prison term of up to 25 years and up to \$1.25 million in fines.

Chief Defence Attorney Richard Beckler said Poindexter did not lie about the affair and always believed he was carrying out Reagan's policies.

"It was not some grimy little conspiracy like the prosecution would have you believe," Beckler said. "The president of the United States was the driving engine behind this operation."

Poindexter resigned in November 1986 when the scandal came to light, Beckler said, "not because he did anything wrong, but because, like the captain of a ship, he accepted responsibility."

Webb dismissed Reagan's role as the driving force behind the Iran-contra cover-up and attacked Reagan's videotaped testimony for the defence.

The reason Ronald Reagan was called to the stand was in the hope that if you listened to testimony of a former president in support of John Poindexter, instead of looking at evidence and the facts, you'd assume just because the president testified, you ought to acquit," Webb told the jury.

"That defence... is an insult to your intelligence."

Poindexter is the highest-ranking member of the Reagan administration to stand trial on Iran-contra criminal charges. So far, none has been sentenced to prison.

Oliver North, Poindexter's former aide at the NSC, was convicted of three Iran-contra felonies last May and is currently performing community service while he appeals that conviction.

Global weather (major world cities)

MIN. MAX. Weather

AMSTERDAM... 05 15 15 21 Cloudy
ATHENS... 12 14 15 16 64 Cloudy
BAHRAIN... 18 24 27 31 Cloudy
BANGKOK... 28 39 43 53 Cloudy
BUENOS AIRES... 16 21 22 27 Rain
CHICAGO... 12 24 24 26 Clear
CHONGKING... 03 28 37 45 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN... 05 11 14 17 Clear
FRANKFURT... 05 11 15 19 Cloudy
GENEVA... 04 09 12 14 Cloudy
HONG KONG... 19 28 31 37 Cloudy
ISTANBUL... 07 14 14 17 Clear
LONDON... 08 15 16 18 Clear
LOS ANGELES... 13 15 19 25 Clear
MADRID... 05 17 19 25 Rain
MECCA... 23 37 37 47 Cloudy
MONTREAL... 05 16 16 24 Snow
MOSCOW... 02 08 08 14 Clear
NEW DELHI... 15 31 32 38 Clear
NEW YORK... 02 28 30 41 Rain
PARIS... 09 14 16 21 Clear
ROME... 05 11 11 14 Clear
SYDNEY... 17 23 23 28 Rain
TOKYO... 10 10 12 14 Rain
VIENNA... 08 13 16 21 Clear

M - Indicates missing information.

COLUMN 800000

Gabor pays her dues

LOS ANGELES (R) — Zsa Zsa Gabor has paid her dues for slapping a police officer by working 50 hours at a shelter for homeless women and agreeing to host a benefit auction for the institution, a prosecutor said Friday. Deputy Los Angeles Prosecutor Eldon Fox said a letter from the shelter director indicated that the entertainer had completed her community service. She was originally sentenced late last year to do 120 hours of community service, but Fox said he was satisfied that with the 50 hours already served and the June auction she had fulfilled the court's requirements. Gabor, who claims to be 59 years old and not the recorded 66 or 68 and who is better known for her television appearances and her sharp tongue rather than her acting, was found guilty of assaulting Beverly Hills police officer, Paul Kramer after he had pulled her over for a traffic infraction in June. Kramer is seeking \$10 million in a civil suit against Gabor alleging slander, assault and battery and causing emotional distress.

Flower exposition opens in Japan

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — Robots and futuristic pavilions competed with thousands of lush blossoms at the International Garden and Greenery Exposition opened Saturday. Displaying 2.5 million flowers representing 2,000 varieties from 80 nations and 54 international organisations, the exposition opened for special guests from around the world. "Expo '90" opens to the public Sunday. "I hope that by coming in contact with the world's flowers and greenery we can understand the profundity of nature and deepen the desire to seek a better environment for the world in the next century," Crown Prince Naruhito told 3,000 VIP guests at the opening ceremony. Flower varieties, such as the blue poppy of the Himalayas, the desert rose of East Africa, and the brightly coloured lobster's claw from Central and South America, will be on display. Some 30 pavilions will feature simulated nature exhibits, high-definition television presentations of ballet, and a 3-D movie of computer graphics that takes the audience inside the bodies of plants and animals. Inside the Mitsui-Toshiba pavilion, robots show off their musical talents while an animation film is shown. Three pavilions feature "Expo Weddings" — held in the state of Hawaii garden with couples clad in traditional Hawaiian wedding costumes. The weddings are offered free with priority going to couples planning to honeymoon in Hawaii.

Only women cab drivers may wear skirts in L.A.

LOS ANGELES (R) — The city of Los Angeles, seeking to smarten up the grubby image of its taxicab drivers, decreed a dress code Friday that said skirts should be at least knee length — and they should be worn only by females. A spokesman for the city commissioners said he did not know how many male cabbies had been driving around in skirts, but doubted that the habit was widespread. Male drivers who continue to skirt around the new code can be fined up to \$500, and if they persist their cab company could be hit for \$100,000, the spokesman said. The code also bans shorts, sandals, sweatshirts and pants with bold prints or plaids. Skirts must have no more than two buttons undone, and they must be tucked in, whether the cabbie is wearing a skirt or trousers. Females, by the way, may wear trousers.

Cocktails slashed in Wall Street outback

NEW YORK (R) — The Wall Street slump has sobered up brokers at Prudential Bache Securities Inc. Employees said Friday the company told them that the regular Friday evening "happy hour" was being shut down as a cost-cutting measure. "It's the end of an era," said one employee, who asked not to be identified. "It used to be on weeknights, then on Friday nights, now it's no nights." A Prudential-Bache spokeswoman said that an internal memo issued this week said the Friday evening drinking sessions were being suspended. The "happy hour" had been used to entertain officers of the firm and clients. "This sort of gathering is inconsistent with the belt-tightening currently being asked of the firm," the memo stated.

Hungarian parties reach poll accord

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — The Democratic Forum, the party with the strongest showing in last Sunday's elections, has agreed to form an alliance with two smaller conservative parties for the decisive runoff elections April 8.

The agreement could be a preliminary step to the formation of a conservative coalition to head Hungary's first democratic government in more than 40 years.

The Democratic Forum agreed with the Independent Smallholders' Party and the Christian

Democrats to have voters cast ballots for whichever candidate of the three parties is strongest in their districts, said the Hungarian News Agency (MTI).

A split vote and complex electoral system meant that only five of the 386 contested parliamentary seats were decided in last Sunday's first round of elections.

The Democratic Forum also got 24.71 per cent of the party vote, defeating their chief rivals, the Liberal League of Free Democrats, who garnered 21.38 per cent.

The Independent Smallholders were in third place with 11.76 per cent and the Christian Democrats sixth with 6.46 per cent.

In the April 8 runoff, the League of Free Democrats is likely to team up with the leftist Young Democrats, who came fifth Sunday with 8.94 per cent of the votes.

The ruling Socialists, formed from the Communist reformers who led Hungary peacefully toward democracy, came in fourth Sunday with 10.89 per cent of the votes.

Police kill 4 during Nepal protests

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepalese police have shot dead at least four more people in battles with residents of a Kathmandu suburb protesting against the arrest of political activists, witnesses and government sources said Saturday.

Witnesses said two people were shot dead Saturday and a nurse was critically wounded when police opened fire on several thousand demonstrators in the Lalitpur district.

Government sources said police shot dead two men during house-to-house searches in Lalitpur late Friday night after the town erupted in protest against a government crackdown on a six-week-old campaign for multi-party democracy.

The government has confirmed that two people were shot dead

earlier Friday in Lalitpur as police battled to drive back protesters hurling bottles and stones.

The Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), an alliance of political parties banned for 30 years, has launched protests against Nepal's partyless system of elected councils.

The MRD has appealed to Nepal's King Birendra, who is above the constitution, to stop police breaking up its demonstrations and arresting hundreds of its activists.

The government says Nepal's system is democratic and that the MRD has been influenced by Communist extremists.

Witnesses said MRD supporters and Lalitpur residents, including peasants brandishing farm tools, took to the town's streets Saturday to protest against

Friday's deaths. Police opened fire after failing to halt the demonstration with teargas.

The nurse, from Kathmandu's main Bir Hospital, was shot in the chest, the witnesses said.

The Nepal Medical Association has already called on its 2,300 doctors to stop all but emergency services Sunday.

Kathmandu doctors rallied behind the MRD after at least 12 people died in clashes with police during the first three days of the campaign for open political activity, launched on Feb. 18. The MRD has held demonstrations and strikes.

A special edition of Nepal's government Gazette Saturday banned employees of essential services, including transport, post, electricity, water and banks, from striking.

Under the new election law, the first round of voting will elect 200 members by a proportional system, with voters opting for parties rather than individuals. The rest of the members will be elected by a simple majority vote.

Parties will have to poll at least four per cent of the vote to win a seat in parliament. Any individual will be allowed to form a political party provided it is not based on religion, is not fascist and does not support violence.

The laws fixed strict limits on foreign aid for opposition parties which lack funds after four decades of one-party rule.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Hungary, S. Africa to resume ties

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Hungary and South Africa have decided to resume diplomatic relations, the South African Department of Foreign Affairs announced Saturday. Permanent diplomatic missions above consulate level will be opened in each country, but will not be embassies, said department spokesman Eva Dry. A date has been set for the move. The Soviet Union and its allies' cut off relations with South Africa 30 years ago because of the South African policy of racial segregation called apartheid. But South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha has said his government continued to have trade and other contacts with some East Bloc countries, although a total boycott officially existed.

8 SS-23s miss Vies in Bulgaria

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — Bulgaria has 72 short-range missiles, eight of them Soviet-made SS-23s with a maximum range of 500 kilometres, a Foreign Ministry official said Friday. "The eight missiles were bought and received in 1986, they are Bulgaria's property and are under exclusive Bulgarian control," the official was quoted by the Bulgarian News Agency (BTA) as saying. The official, who was not identified by name, said there "have never been and there are not at the moment any missiles in Bulgaria which should be declared and destroyed on the strength of the INF treaty signed by the Soviet Union and the United States in 1987." The SS-23 missiles "have never had (nuclear warheads) nor has there been any intention to supply them with nuclear heads," BTA said.

U.S. judge stays execution of killer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A judge has blocked the scheduled execution next Tuesday of convicted double murderer Robert Alton Harris, saying he may not have gotten a competent psychiatric help during his trial. "It is reasonably arguable, and we cannot determine from this record, whether Harris received competent psychiatric assistance," said Judge John Noonan, one of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Noonan issued his order after a hearing Friday, calling the decision "a vindication of the state and federal interest that no one be put to death without due process of law." Harris was convicted in the July 5, 1978 shooting deaths of 16-year-olds John Mayeski and Michael Baker, in San Diego. He abducted the boys while searching for a car to steal in the use of a bank robbery. Noonan said U.S. District Judge William E. Enright, who turned down an appeal by Harris Wednesday, should have held a hearing on new psychiatric evidence submitted by the defence.

WHO reports 15 million childhood deaths

GENEVA (AP) — Fifteen million children under the age of five die every year, most of them needlessly, a report by the World Health Organisation (WHO) has said. The World Health Statistics Annual said vaccine-preventable diseases, acute diarrhoea and respiratory infections were the main causes of death among the very young, especially in the Third World. It said of the estimated 11 million deaths occurring annually in industrialised countries, heart disease was the biggest killer (2.4 million) followed by cancer (2.3 million) and strokes (1.5 million). Some 800,000 people in the developed world died from "violent causes" last year, including 180,000 from suicide and 170,000 from road accidents, it said. The report, which collates 1989 national statistics of most of the U.N. agency's 166 members, put the annual total of worldwide deaths at 50 million.

Man charged for starting New York fire

NEW YORK (R) — Cuban immigrant Julio Gonzalez, the jilted lover accused of setting the devastating fire at a Bronx Club, was charged with 174 counts of murder — the biggest mass murder indictment in U.S. history. In another New York Court, relatives of three of the fire victims filed multi-million dollar lawsuits against the city and the owner and the lessee of the building. Bronx Prosecutor Robert Johnson said Gonzalez showed "a depraved indifference to human life." The grand jury also charged Gonzalez with arson and the attempted murder of his former girlfriend, Lydia Feliciano — a ticket taker at the social club and one of only five people who escaped the blaze alive early Sunday. Eighty-seven people died in the fire, the biggest mass murder in U.S. history. Gonzalez was charged with two counts of murder for each of the 87 victims.

Blast kills 5 in Chinese train station

HONG KONG (AP) — An explosion rocked a crowded train station in the southern Chinese city of Canton, killing five people and injuring more than 30 others, pro-Peking newspapers reported Saturday. The blast occurred about 6:45 p.m. Friday some 25 metres from the west gate of the station, which was thick with people as a train from Shanghai had just arrived, the newspapers said. The reports said the cause of the explosion was unknown. City and provincial officials immediately launched an investigation and held emergency meetings Saturday. Morning newspapers reported three dead, but the afternoon Chinese-language New Evening Post said the toll had risen to five.

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